FBIS DAILY REPORT

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FORMER PRESIDENT VIDELA ADMITS 1976 COUP ROLE

PY291932 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1858 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Apr (DYN) -- In a document submitted today to a Federal Court, former Lieutenant General Jorge Rafael Videla "fully" and "without any type of reservation" assumed responsibility for the 24 March 1976 coup that ousted Maria Estela de Peron's constitutional government.

Videla, who is serving a life sentence in the Magdalena Military Prison, submitted a document today to Federal Judge Amelia Berraz de Vidal, who is trying the case of the 1976 military rebellion.

In his document, the accused does not acknowledge the competence of the civilian courts to try him. He criticized a recent decision handed down by the Supreme Court, stating that while he was commanding the Army, his subordinates were exempt from any type of responsibility, and that he will not name a lawyer, or offer evidence or briefs.

Court proceedings for rebellion are being conducted against those responsibile for subverting institutional order in 1976. The Supreme Court has recently ruled that the Federal Courts are capable of handling these cases which previously were the exclusive domain of military courts.

In his plea, Videla "categorically" complained because he believes "by denying me the right to be tried by the Armed Forces Supreme Council, the Supreme Court and the Federal Court have violated what is established in the Military Justice Code, and they have overlooked precise and age-old jurisprudence."

The note presented to Secretariat 10 of the Federal Judge Office Number 10 of this capital points out that "the Supreme Court, in its arbitrary ruling, has gone so far as to contend, in the last sentence of its paragraph, that any officer who obeys a higher-ranking officer involved in a rebellion will be submitted for criminal trial, and not allowed to exonerate himself by claiming the principle of due obedience."

The former de facto president then stated "I have at all times fully, without reservations, and without implicating any of my former subordinates, assumed the historical and political responsibility for the actions of the Army on 24 March 1976."

He finally reiterated his refusal "to legitimize processes that violate the guarantees written into the historical Constitution that represent a juridical distortion." He then announced that he will not appoint a defense council, offer evidence, or make appeals on his behalf.

JUDGE DISCOVERS RIGHTIST TERRORIST ARSENAL

PY281640 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1146 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 28 Apr (DYN) -- The investigation being carried out by Judge Juan Maria Ramos Padilla, trial judge for the city of Moron, into the activities of an ultrarightist terrorist cell has in the past few hours led to the discovery of a very large arsenal in the home of a police inspector of the Buenos Aires Provincial Police. This was revealed today by highly reliable sources.

The sources, which were consulted by DYN, state that the police inspector, whose name was not revealed, escaped just before that judge and a group of policemen raided his home in the city of Arrecifes, Buenos Aires Province, approximately 150 km northwest of this capital.

The sources also stated that high-powered carbines, other types of large caliber weapons, handguns, several types of grenades, helmets, uniforms, and other equipment were found in the house. This equipment was used by the ultrarightist terrorist group that was arrested 2 weeks ago. This group has been linked to Ramon Camps and Miguel Etechecolatz, who have already been sentenced for human rights violations.

It has been reported that because of the investigations and other actions that have been conducted to clear up the crimes that have been attributed to this cell, Judge Ramos has decided to again question Camps and Etchecolatz. This will probably occur today.

The judge questioned Camps for the first time on 18 April at the Cosme Argerich Central Military Hospital. On that occasion, the former chief of the Buenos Aires Provincial Police stated he was dedicationg himself to politics, and claimed he was one of the "founders" of a new faction of the "Peronist Party" called the "National 17 October Movement" ["17 de Octubre, Movimiento Nacional"].

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH ALGERIA

PY271854 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1615 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- The governments of Argentina and Algeria today signed a cooperation agreement which includes various issues such as mutual commercial relations. Definite proposals to strengthen trade were made.

The agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Dante Caputo and Abdelhak Rafik Bererhi, Algerian minister of higher education and member of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front, at the conclusion of the Argentine-Algerian Mixed Commission meeting. The agreement was signed in accordance with a political decision made by the presidents of the two counries who met in Algiers in 1984 and in Buenos Aires in 1986.

Upon closing the 1-week meeting, Caputo made a brief evaluation of the signed agreement and said that the friendly relations already existing between the two people should be transformed into joint action for mutual benefit.

Caputo emphasized the agreement between the agricultural research centers of the two countries. He added that those who know the importance Algeria places on agriculture, and the unreplaceable role of the agricultural sector in the Argentine economy, realize the real importance of complete cooperation.

The Algerian delegation expressed interest in selling mercury, cork, phosphates, and liquid gas among other products. The Argentine delegation expressed the possibility that the State Gas Corporation may import 40,000 metric tons of liquid gas at international prices and quality.

An agreement was also reached in the areas of transportation, financing, higher education and scientific research, energy, agriculture, water resources, postal service and telecommunications, culture, tourism and social communications.

Trade Commission Ratified

PY211319 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2126 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Apr (DYN) -- A mixed commission for economic, commercial, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation between Argentina and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria was formed today.

The ceremony, which was held at the Foreign Ministry, was presided over by International Relations Secretary Jorge F. Sabato and by Algerian Higher Education and Scientific Research Minister [title as published] Abdelhak Bererhi, who came to Buenos Aires to attend this ceremony.

In the absence of Foreign Minister Dante Caputo, who was at the Olivos residence with President Raul Alfonsin, Ambassador delivered a speech that was to have been delivered by the foreign minister. Sabato emphasized that "a political decision has been taken by our two governments to promote active and mutually beneficial cooperation based on long-term projects."

Sabato added that "this means that the era of uncertain short-term projects has passed and now long-term projects, some of which are alrady being implemented, will be methodically approached." Sabato said that "we must seek new innovations and overcome routine. Relations between our two nations have existed for a long time at a formal level, but are very new concerning the importance that the two governments now want to attach to them."

Sabato also stated that "our cooperation will be exemplary within the framework of South-South cooperation and our successes may give rise to reservations and resistance from the industrialized countries which perceive that their prospects are becoming commensurable reduced." He stated that apart from some American and European nations, Algeria was the only country to send a message to President Alfonsin concerning the military crisis which occurred during Holy Week.

Bererhi decided to deliver a moving impromptu speech in which he stated that his country staunchly supports the Argentine Government's position.

At the beginning of today's ceremony, Sabato and Bererhi exchanged the documents ratifying the agreement which was signed by the two governments to create a mixed commission. This agreement was signed in Algiers on 3 December 1984 during Caputo's visit to Algeria.

In the afternoon, both delegations met at the offices of the Foreign Trade Secretariat to begin the task of the mixed commission.

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CAPE VERDE

PY301521 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2320 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 29 Apr (DYN) -- Argentina and Cape Verde today signed a scientific and technical cooperation agreement aimed at "consolidating and intensifying the friendly relations between the two countries."

The agreement was signed by Cape Verdian Foreign Minister Silvino Manuel da Luz, and Jorge Sabato, secretary of international relations, who represented Foreign Minister Dante Caputo who is in Italy.

The agreement says that the two countries "promise to cooperate within a spirit of solidarity to promote the scientific and technical development of the two countries."

ALFONSIN SIGNS DECREE ON OIL EXPLORATION

PY252200 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 25 Apr 87 p 1

[Text] (DYN-NA) -- President Raul Alfonsin yesterday signed a decree introducing changes in future oil contracts between local and foreign enterprises and the YPF state oil company within the framework of the so-called Houston Plan II.

One of the main changes, which simplifies the conditions for the exploration and exploitation of oil in Argentina, establishes that contractors will be in charge of oil fields and sets a 45-day period for the energy secretariat to approve or reject the exploitation of the fields. If the secretariat makes no decision during this period, the exploration will automatically be approved.

Decree 623 also does away with a clause included in the former contracts whereby contractors were to be paid in kind.

TRADE WITH BRAZIL INCREASES BY 40 PERCENT

PY271656 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1110 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 27 Apr (TELAM) -- Beatriz Nofal, under secretary of Industrial Development, has reported that trade between Argentina and Brazil increased 40 percent during 1986, adding that this trade favored Argentina by $50 million. Nofal indicated that exports to Brazil increased from $900 million in 1985 to $1.3 billion in 1986.

She added that capital goods exchanged are, among others, machinery for the food industry, practically the entire machine-tool sector, some instruments, pumps, and agricultural machinery with the exception of tractors, harvesters and seeders.

In the newscast of Argentina Televisora Color (ATC), Beatriz Nofal pointed out that in addition to an important increase in exports, Argentina also increased imports by 13 percent last year.

BRIEFS

NEW WEEKLY PUBLISHED -- Buenos Aires, 23 Apr (AFP) -- The first issue of the Argentine weekly EXPRESO came out today, 23 April. This somewhat progovernment magazine is published by journalist Mario Diament. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2122 GMT 23 Apr 87 PY]

COCAINE SEIZED, TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED -- Cordoba, 22 Apr (TELAM) -- The antinarcotics division of the Cordoba Province police today seized 3 kg of cocaine and arrested two young students at the local bus terminal. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0144 GMT 23 Apr 87 PY]

NEW CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT APPOINTED 29 APR

PY300018 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2255 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Fernando Milliet of Sao Paulo has been appointed new president of the Central Bank.

Milliet, 44, served as administration secretary under Sao Paulo Governor Paulo Egidio Martins, and vice president of BANESPA [Sao Paulo State Bank] when Luiz Carlos Bresser Ferreira was manager.

When Luiz Bresser became former Sao Paulo Governor Franco Montoro's government secretary, he appointed Fernando Milliet as BANESPA manager.

Bank of Brazil Manager Camilo Calazans, and the president of the Federal Savings Bank, Marcos Freire, have been confirmed in their posts.

PMDB STATEMENT ENDORSES ECONOMIC POLICY

PY252257 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Apr 87 p A6

[Text] This is the full text of the official document that was disclosed yesterday by the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] National Executive Board.

"The PMDB Executive Board is pleased that the government has adopted a series of economic measures that the PMDB has been promoting, particularly since the 14 January National Directorate meeting held in Brasilia with governors, congressmen, and mayors, and in successive meeting of its party blocs.

"We particularly must stress the importance of the following measures in which the party's political support of national economic authorities played a decisive role:

"The decision to suspend foreign debt payments and conduct firm but calm negotiations;

"The measures that the federal government has adopted to help the financial situation of states and municipalities;

"The measures that have been adopted to refinance the debts of the agricultural and small business sectors through the establishment of additional lines of credit, a substantial reduction of interest rates, and a greater participation of the Bank of Brazil.

"These measures are clearly within the framework of an antirecessive policy that safeguards national interests, and which together with the public investments program (the financing of which is already guaranteed) have dispelled any threat of a depression, which has been looming over our economy and our society.

"Since this stage has been overcome, the PMDB considers it necessary to launch a staunch fight against inflation, which has been the cause of increasing concern in Brazilian society, particularly among workers. [paragrah continues]

The PMDB also considers it to be its duty to start a political campaign encompassing national political and economic authorities, other political parties, labor organizations, the business sector, and the mass media to establish just rules for a new price and salary order. The new order should strive to curb inflation at levels that are compatible with but do not undermine a healthy economy and a just distribution of income."

Brasilia, 23 April 1987.

CUBAN VESSEL DOCKS SECOND TIME IN COUNTRY

PY271944 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 26 Apr 87 p 37

[Text] The Cuban vessel El Jigue, docked on 25 April in Santos, is the first Cuban ship to do so in 23 years. This is the second time the Cuban vessel has docked in Brazil since the two countries resumed diplomatic relations. El Jigue docked in the port of Paranagua in January 1987. Captain Ruben Besu Canino has stated that his country wishes to maintain friendly ties and trade with all the countries in the world, even with those countries that do not have relations with Cuba, mentioning the United States, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Chile. The crewmen jokingly said that they are frequently confused with Brazilians in foreign ports. The crew was very anxious to buy Brazilian coffee.

VENEZUELAN DEFENSE MINISTER PAYS OFFICIAL VISIT

PY300344 Paris AFP in Spanish 1829 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Sao Paulo, 29 Apr (AFP) -- Venezuelan Defense Minister General Jose Rafael Cardozo Grimaldi, today said that his country is interested in undertaking joint ventures with Brazilian weapon companies.

The Venezuelan official is currently paying an official visit to Brazil at the invitation of Brazilian Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves.

Cardoso Grimaldi today visited Brazilian weapons industry installations in Sao Jose dos Campos, state Sao Paulo state.

Cardos Grimaldi told the media that the Venezuelan Air Force is satisfied at the Tucano airplanes, manufactured by the Brazilian Aeronautics Company (Embraer), which Venezuela bought last year and which are being used by the military aviation school.

Cardoso Grimaldi already visited Brasilia where he met with Brazilian Foreign Minister Abreu Sodre. They discussed the need to increase the exchange of information between border military authorities on drug trafficking and guerrilla activities. They also discussed the education exchange between Brazilian and Venezuelan officers.

ABREU SODRE ON INTEGRATION, TRADE WITH ARGENTINA

PY271310 Paris AFP in Spanish 0213 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Buenos Aires, 26 Apr (AFP) -- Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto Abreu Sodre today stressed that the integration process between his country and Argentina are quickly advancing.

In remarks to a state owned Argentine television channel, Abreu stated that the two countries can see the large potential for integration, which will be mutually beneficial.

After highlighting the fact that we have doubled trade between the two countries, he stated that he believes in this way we will achieve the miracle of complementation.

The foreign minister pointed out the importance of the participation of Argentine businessmen in the 1987 Argentine Fair, currently taking place in Sao Paulo, he added that Brazilians must go to Argentina to generate an exchange of knowledge.

ARMY MINISTER DISCUSSES AIR FORCE FOR ARMY

PY252330 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Apr 87 p 6

["Text" of interview with Army Minister General Leonidas Pires Goncalves by unidentified reporters on 23 April in Sao Paulo]

[Text] [Reporter] Can the situation between the government and the military in Argentina have an influence in Brazil?

[Goncalves] In my opinion, it cannot have any effect. Argentina's problems are completely different from Brazil's problems. Things that are unlike cannot be compared. As a friendly country, I would like to see Argentina solve its internal problems and take the definitive road to peace and democracy.

[Reporter] Is there a climate for direct presidential elections in Brazil?

[Goncalves] I do not think this question is appropriate because I am a professional soldier. That question should be addressed to politicians. In my opinion, however, President Jose Sarney is serving an absolutely legitimate and legal mandate. So, I don't see why we should discuss this.

[Reporter] Do you believe with the departure of the PFL [Liberal Front Party] from the government, there will be a radicalization toward the left?

[Goncalves] What I believe is happening politically is that the Democratic Alliance [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party and Liberal Front Party] is getting stronger. For instance, notice the results of the meeting between PMDB president Ulysses Guimaraes and PFL honorary president Aureliano Chaves. I believe this is the way. We have to strengthen the Democratic Alliance so we can have a strong political framework to be able to reach our political objectives.

[Reporter] Don't you then believe the departure of Marcos Maciel from the government signals the departure of the Democratic Alliance?

[Goncalves] That depends on who takes his place. If the desired objective is to strengthen the Democratic Alliance, the alliance will stay.

[Reporter] What's your opinion of the rebellion within the Military Police of Rio de Janeiro?

[Goncalves] I don't know the details of the problem, so I don't want to say anything about it.

[Reporter] What was the tone of your lecture to the Army in Sao Paulo?

[Goncalves] Every year, I tour the military commands in the area. The main topic of my lecture was the FT-90 (plan for the refurbishing the Army in the 1990's). I told the officers about the plans for 1987.

[Reporter] Will an Air Force for the Army be created?

[Goncalves] This plan is under way. We already have two groups of trained pilots, a total of 26 men. We also have all the personnel for maintenance of the infrastructure. The materiel will probably be purchased through international bids in 60 days.

[Reporter] Do you intend to acquire helicopters for the Army's Aviation Battalion? Will these helicopters be manufactured in Brazil? What type will they be?

[Goncalves] We will call for international bids, setting specifications and conditions. In addition to the price, we will consider the possibility that the materiel be nationalized. In the purchase, preference will be given to the company that demonstrates the possibility for the gradual nationalization of the materiel.

BRIEFS

NEW SEARCH RESCUE SYSTEM -- As of June, Brazil will join the global search and rescue system known as Corpas-Sarsat that renders assistance to victims of air and sea accidents. Pioneered by the United States, Soviet Union, France, and Canada, this global search and rescue system uses five satellites strategically located to cover the earth. [Excerpt] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 26 Apr 87 p 11 PY]

MARCH TRADE BALANCED ANNOUNCED -- The March trade balance registered a surplus of just $136 million, representing 47.8 percent less than the $261 million registered in February. In spite of this decrease, CACEX [Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department] director (Roberto Senete) still expects a surplus of $9.0 billion by year's end. [Excerpt] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Apr 87 PY]

INFANTRY BRIGADE COMMANDER INSTALLED -- Yesterday, recently promoted General Nilton Cerqueira assumed the command of the 9th Armored Infantry Brigade, headquartered in the Military Village of Rio de Janeiro. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Apr 87 p 2 PY]

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE ANNOUNCED -- The IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] has reported that the unemployment rate for February this year reached 3.4 percent. This is the lowest rate for February in the past 4 years. [Excerpt] [Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 28 Apr 87 PY]

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES MERINOS'S STATEMENT

PY301615 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle has said that he is not uncomfortable with the statement made by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino against granting Bolivia a sea corridor. Del Valle added there are no reasons for the remarks made by Admiral Merino, Navy commander and Government Junta member, to obstruct the negotiations with Bolivia.

Reporters told Del Valle that the public is confused about the case of the Bolivian request for a sea corridor. Del Valle was told that the people do not understand why he is negotiating in the name of the government while Merino, the man who is in charge of legislative matters, disagrees with the negotiations.

He was asked if Merino's remarks are undermining his efforts, and if he, as foreign minister, finds himself in an uncomfortable position. This was the exchange between Del Valle and reporters:

[Begin recording] [Del Valle] No, I am not in an uncomfortable position. The treaties have always been first negotiated, debated, and discussed by the Executive Branch and then submitted to the Legislative Branch. We are also going to do that at the appropriate time.

[Reporter] Is a bill required in this case?

[Del Valle] Of course, any treaty that has to be amended requires a law.

[Reporter] Merino said that he could veto it.

[Del Valle] I have already said that I am not going to comment on the admiral's remarks.

[Reporter] Hugo Banzer said he submitted the Bolivian proposal to President Pinochet in Charana in 1976. Is this true, or is it just another rumor being published by the Bolivian press?

[Del Valle] I would say that it is not correct.

[Reporter] In Bolivia, some sectors want the proposal to be made public. What would happened if Bolivia makes the proposal public?

[Del Valle] It would only mean that the proposal was made public, and everyone knows about it. This is all, what else can I tell you.

[Reporter] Is there an agreement to keep the proposal secret?

[Del Valle] We agreed to keep it secret, but that agreement could be changed at the appropriate time. [end recording]

After he made this statement to the press this afternoon Del Valle met with the four members of the Government Junta in the Diego Fortales Building. During the meeting, Del Valle explained in detail to the junta members the content of the Bolivian proposal made in the recent meeting held in Montevideo.

Del Valle said that he will continue to provide information on this case to the Armed Forces and other sectors. However, he pointed out that the talks with Bolivia will be kept confidential until the time an agreement is reached. He added that the situation remains the same; the government is studying the Bolivian proposal, and that an official answer to Bolivia will be given at the appropriate time.

Bolivia on Merino Statement

PY010248 Santiago Radio Chilena in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] La Paz -- In a letter addressed to and published by the daily ULTIMA HORA, Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal said: I believe that the higher authorities of the Chilean Government must explain the statement made by Admiral Jose Toribio Merino, president of the Military Junta.

Bedregal went on to say that under the present circumstances, I believe that it is necessary for the higher Chilean Government authorities to give an explanation so it can be learned whether the statement, in fact, is only an individual outburst of a high-ranking Navy commander, or whether it represents the Navy's opinion, or whether it represents the Chilean Government's official stance.

NEW POLITICAL PARTIES ALLOWED TO CAMPAIGN ON TV

PY281941 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Emerging political parties will be allowed to make use of special television programs to explain their objectives and thus attract votes. Education Minister Sergio Gaete, who is also president of the National Television Council, released this report during a news conference. He said that approximately 2 weeks ago, the official gazette published a decree authorizing the formation of political parties and allowed them to explain their respective political guidelines and platforms of principles.

[Begin Gaete recording] The law on political parties, if I am not mistaken, in its Article No 5 states that formed political parties will have access to the communications media, including television, in order to air their ideas and, of course, to give them an opportunity to attract votes. Thus, the National Television Council decided during a recent meeting to establish respective norms to be submitted to the different television channels. [end recording]

The education minister explained the political leaders are allowed a daily 6-minute program, after 2100, for which they will have to pay a rather expensive bill. [passage omitted]

PERU POLICE DIRECTOR DENIES FPMR, SHINING PATH TIE

PY281736 Paris AFP in Spanish 0122 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Santiago, 27 Apr (AFP) -- Lieutenant General Carlos Rodriguez Tirado, director general of Peru's police forces, said today a link or connection between the Shining Path of Peru and the Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front (FPMR) has not been established.

The Peruvian police director general is now participating in the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the Chilean Carabineros. He emphasized that nothing definite could be said about an actual connection between the two subversive groups.

Chilean Foreign Minister Jaime del Valle said 10 days ago there was a direct connection between the Peruvian and Chilean terrorist movements, and possibly with other terrorist movements in South America.

Lt Gen Carlos Rodriguez Tirado referred to members of terrorist groups as mentally ill and fanatical persons bent on destroying everything by violence.

He added that there are subversive elements who do not value things like the love of God, fatherland, and countrymen, and then noted the police forces are doing all they can to capture and subdue those elements.

Concerning the discovery of an arsenal at the coastal zone near the border with Chile, Rodriguez Tirado said the origin of the weapons is being investigated, but he could not say if those weapons were identical to those found in Chile.

The Shining Path and the FPMR are clandestinely fighting the governments of Peru and Chile, respectively, and they have claimed responsibility for several bombing attacks in their respective countries.

SEPARATE BOMB EXPLOSIONS REPORTED IN SANTIAGO

PY302027 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The death of a presumed terrorist, property damage at a bank agency, and damage to private home were the results of a wave of bomb attacks recorded over the past few hours in Santiago. The most serious event took place when an individual, who was apparently carrying a bomb, was blown to pieces when the bomb prematurely went off. [passage omitted]

A second bomb exploded a few minutes later at the building where the Carabineros museum and files are located. The building is located on the corner of Montenegro and Irrazabal Streets, Nunos neighborhood.

The explosion damaged a wall and shattered the windows of nearby houses, but caused no casualties. Another fire bomb was hurled by unidentified individuals against the Santiago Bank branch office, located on the corner of Vicuna Mackenna Avenue and Mozart Street, San Miguel neighborhood.

The bomb caused some damage to the windows and furniture of the bank, but no one was injured.

Carabineros also reported on the detention of three individuals who drove through a police barrier and began a shoot-out with a patrol unit. These individuals, one of whom sustained a bullet wound in his leg, were intercepted on the corner of Nubles and Santiago Concha Streets, and were taken to the fourth Carabineros station. [passage omitted]

BOMB INJURES DPRK COMMERCIAL ATTACHE, NOT ENVOY

PA301818 Paris AFP in Spanish 1752 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 30 Apr (AFP) -- An attack with explosives staged by a subversive command at the DPRK commercial mission in Lima wounded three persons, including the commercial attache of that country, according to preliminary police reports. The perpetrators of the attack, two men and a woman, after knocking at the door of the mission pulled a gun on the administrator and then went into a parlor where they left a suitcase with explosives. The explosive device exploded 2 minutes after the subversives fled at 1000 (1500 GMT).

Kim Chan-sik, the commercial attache, the highest ranking official of the mission, was wounded and not the ambassador, as was initially reported, because Peru does not have diplomatic relations at the embassy level, the Peruvian Foreign Ministry reported. The other persons wounded are Kaje Chi-chon, the secretary, and So Di-mei, the administrator, according to preliminary reports. [spelling of names as received] The powerful explosion caused considerable damage inside the building and the shock wave affected nearby buildings. According to one report, still not confirmed by the police, a small girl who was near the building was also wounded.

AFP REPORTS MORE TERRORIST ACTIONS IN AYACUCHO

PY292123 Paris AFP in Spanish 1647 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Lima, 29 Apr (AFP) -- Police today reported that the bodies of eight peasants discovered in Ayacucho, and the bombings against the newspaper EXPRESO, the private offices of opposition Senator Manuel Ulloa, and three banks which have resulted in one death and nine persons injured, have marked an escalation of terrorism in Peru.

Court sources report that the peasants, who were shot dead and whose bodies showed evidence of torture, were discovered on 28 April in Tocto, approximately 56 km from Ayacucho, in the southeastern Andes. The remains of seven adult farm workers and one youth had had their faces totally disfigured to make it difficult to identify them according to a court official who received the report from people who were traveling in the area.

Court officials in Ayacucho, a bastion of Shining Path's Andean guerrilla warfare, upon receiving this information ordered a judge and a prosecutor to travel to the place and start investigating the murders.

Police do not reject the fact that the murders were carried out by the Maoist organization. The military authorities of the emergency zone are maintaining absolute secrecy about this matter. [passage omitted]

In the Peruvian capital two more bombs were deactivated. One of them had been placed against the door of the house of General Hugo Morante, deputy director of the Peruvian Investigative Police. The other was placed inside a hardware store. Julio Jara, the prefect of Cusco, has told the police he found a hit list in the possession of 1 of the 24 subversives arrested on 26 April. On this list the prefect, the city's mayor, Carlos Chacon, other high ranking officials, political leaders, and police chiefs are threatened with death.

TERRORISTS, POLICE FIGHT 8-HOUR BATTLE

PY301351 Paris AFP in Spanish 0410 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Lima, 29 Apr (AFP) -- Police sources have reported that police and terrorists today fought an 8-hour battle in the mountains of Puno Department, some 1,000 km southeast of Lima. Four guerrillas and two policemen died in the shoot-out.

The battle occurred in the district of Antauta, Melgar Province, between a column of the Maoist Shining Path and a police patrol that was inspecting that zone, which has been the scene of numerous terrorist actions during the past few months.

It has also been learned from the same sources that a Shining Path column today occupied the district of Sanagoran, Huamachuco Province, located approximately 700 km north of Lima.

The guerrillas, armed with rifles and dynamite, burned down the town hall and the mayor's house. They also publicly flogged the mayor and the deputy governor of Sanagoran, and warned them that they must resign or be killed.

In Lima, police have reported that five terrorists, who were arrested last week, have confessed that their plans included grenade attack against Government House. When arrested last week in Miraflores neighborhood, the terrorists had a sack of antitank grenades.

BRIEFS

JOINT STAFF CHIEF APPOINTED -- General Manuel Percy Velarde of the Peruvian Air Force was appointed yesterday Air Force Joint Chief of Staff. He replaces Air Force General Pablo Varela Novella, who last Tuesday became the commanding general of the Peruvian Air Force, after the dismissal of General Luis Abram Cavallerino. [Excerpt] [Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 8 Apr 87 p 10 PY]

FRENCH AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS -- Yesterday afternoon President Alan Garcia received the credentials of new French Ambassador to Peru Miguel Rougagnou. [Summary] [Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 1 Apr 87 p A4 PY]

33 AIDS CASES DETECTED -- Lima, 10 Apr (AFP) -- Health Minister David Tejada has disclosed that a total of 33 cases of AIDS have been registered so far in Peru. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 0613 GMT 11 Apr 87 PY]

FLASK OF COCAINE SEIZED -- A couple, whose identity has not been disclosed, were arrested when found transporting 25 kg of cocaine paste in thermos flasks. The couple was arrested after being stopped by police at a control post on the Ayacucho-Huanta highway on their way from San Francisco valley in Apurimac to Huamanga. [Summary] [Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 20 Apr 87 p 17 PY]

NEW OIL DEPOSIT DISCOVERED -- The Occidental Petroleum Corporation of Peru has found a new oil deposit in the Peruvian jungle. The new oil well Shivicayu No 23 in Shivicayu is currently producing 6,593 barrels of crude oil per day. [Summary] [Lima COMERCIO in Spanish 7 Apr 87 p A1 PY]

LA JORNADA REPORTS KILLING OF 'DEA AGENT' 27 APR

PA301756 Paris AFP in Spanish 2014 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Apr (AFP) -- The Mexico City newspaper LA JORNADA today reported that an agent of the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), identified as Canadian photographer Andre Doubler, was murdered in northern Mexico on 27 April.

According to the newspaper, it had been initially believed that 45-year-old Doubler, who was accompanied by his wife at the time of the crime, was a tourist.

According to the newspaper, the participation of the DEA and the U.S. police in the investigation of the murder subsequently demonstrated that he was a DEA agent "assigned to the interior of the country."

Jossie Lerranois, the 21-year-old wife of the victim, told the newspaper the couple was attacked by two Mexican youths they had agreed to take in their car from Victoria to Matamoros, in Mexico's furthermost northeast.

She added that there was an argument between Doubler and the Mexicans and one of them killed the Canadian with a shot to the head and then fled with his companion.

In 1985, another DEA agent, U.S. citizen, Enrique Camarena, was murdered in Gauadalajara, a case that caused a cooling of relations between Mexico and the United States.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR DEPARTS TO PREPARE VISIT

FL292356 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2026 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Mexico City, 29 Apr (NOTIMEX) -- Rostilav Sergeyev, Soviet ambassador to Mexico, traveled today to Moscow to prepare the details of the visit Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Mexican foreign secretary, will pay to that country soon.

Interviewed at Mexico City's international airport before his departure, Sergeyev said the Mexican foreign secretary's upcoming visit to his country is highly significant and will strengthen the good relations the two countries maintain.

He said that during his stay in the USSR, Sepulveda will discuss with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his counterpart Eduard Shevardnadze the situation in Central America, especially the subject of disarmament, which if not solved, would endanger the peace of the region.

Sergeyev also said the invitation for the Mexican president to visit that country and for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to visit Mexico are still in effect but the dates of the visits have not been established yet.

'BANXICO' REPORTS INCREASE IN RESERVES

FL291908 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0417 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] At the end of 1986, the Bank of Mexico (BANXICO) reported a $985 million increase in its gross reserves thus achieving a level of $6.790 billion.

In its 1986 report, the Central Bank stated that throughout the year the bank tried to prevent the lack of foreign exchange, caused by the drop in oil revenue and the limited availability of foreign financing, from having negative effects on the country's international reserves.

Meanwhile, the bank pointed out the decrease in the number of loans to the productive sectors had negative effects. However, under circumstances such as the ones experienced in 1986, this action prevented more serious consequences which would have developed into a greater inflation and devaluation of the national currency.

Also, the domestic credit restrictions and the lack of foreign financing helped the national enterprises reduce their foreign assets in order to meet their cash requirements.

The Bank of Mexico admitted that the fiscal, loan, and exchange policies adopted during 1986 proved adequate to confront the negative effects caused by the drop in oil revenues.

The Bank of Mexico added that had we not acted firmly and opportunely, the decrease in the economic activity would have been worse since it would have resulted in greater inflation, devaluation, and lack of foreign exchange.

Regarding the national consumer price index, the report states that it went up 106.7 percent in 1986 because of the unavoidable increase in the rate of exchange.

However, a considerable improvement in the economy's international competitiveness resulted from the fact that the domestic price increase was lower than that of the rate of exchange.

As a result of the evolution of the exchange rate and the contraction of the domestic demands, the value of the non-oil exports increased by 41 percent in 1986 reporting sales in the amount of $9,723,800,000. Meanwhile, the total exports dropped by 13 percent with sales reported in the amount of $11,432,400,000.

Even though oil export sales was $8.460 billion less than last year's sales, the surplus in the balance of payment's commercial account dropped by only $3.853 billion, dropping from $8.452 billion in 1985 to $4.599 billion in 1986.

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY TO GIVE JORGE BLANCO ASYLUM

PA010146 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Attention Panama: A few minutes ago, this television station was able to confirm with a high-ranking source from the national government that our country would be willing to grant asylum to former Dominican Republic President Salvador Jorge Blanco, who remains at the Venezuelan Embassy in Santo Domingo.

This station confirmed that neither Jorge Blanco nor his wife and children will participate in political meetings scheduled by members of the Dominican Revolutionary Party to protest what they call official persecution.

A few minutes ago, a high-ranking spokesman of the Panamanian Government told this television station that the humanitarian decision to receive former Dominican Republic President Jorge Blanco should not create any problems with the ruling Balaguer administration, with which we maintain excellent relations.

LEGISLATORS EXCHANGE SMUGGLING ACCUSATIONS, THREATS

PA281557 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 28 Apr 87 p 1

[By Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] An incident which could have had unforeseeable consequences took place at the beginning of yesterday's legislative session when PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] Legislator Camilo Gozaine lashed out against Authentic Panamenist Legislator Antonio Arias because he publicly accused Gozaine of engaging in smuggling on the border.

Visibly angry, Gozaine protested the accusation, saying it was groundless. He also issued a veiled threat against Arias by reminding him that, for lesser things, one of Arias' uncles was condemned to a wheelchair 20 years ago. Gozaine was referring to Alfredo "Yinyi" Jimenez Escobar's attack on Roberto "Tito" Arias.

Arias, who kept his composure, reiterated his charges, noting that Gozaine should not get angry because it is widely commented in Chiriqui Province that Gozaine has been involved in smuggling for many years. He then proposed to the legislature that if his colleague wanted to defend himself from the charges, he should suggest that the legislature form an ad-hoc commission to investigate the illegal trade on the border with Costa Rica and, in particular, the alleged role that Gozaine has played against the Panamanian producers and the national economy.

Although it was known beforehand that the legislature would not consider such a proposal, many of those present feared that firearms would emerge next. As a result, the two legislators left the sessions room in order to restore calm.

Questioned by LA PRENSA afterwards, Arias said that while there was a great amount of smuggling of lard, cabbage, onions, and tomatoes on the border between Paso Canoas and Rio Sereno, no government authorities adopted measures or threatened to close the border because of the entrance of Central American products.

However, now that Central American countries have closed their doors to products coming from the Colon Free Zone, one must ask why Panama did not do the same to prevent economic harm to its producers and merchants.

In his charge, Arias linked the smuggling that legislator Gozaine allegedly carries out in the border area, where he owns several stores, with the Central American reprisal of closing the borders to Panama.

VICE PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON CANAL TURNOVER

PA292201 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Apr 87 pp 52, D-12

[Text] Vice President Roderick Esquivel has said that by eliminating the concept of the Canal Zone we are making it part of the nation. He added that instead of becoming a trauma, this phenomenon should be a "tail wind" to begin in earnest to find nationalist solutions the country is waiting for. According to Esquivel, Panamanians should discard the idea that the zone continues to be an "enclave." He stressed that the challenge the canal represents for the year 2000 gives us "a schedule that no other country in the hemisphere has, because for those countries time does not seem to have the same meaning it has for us." Esquivel made this statement during his eloquent speech at the closure of the CADE 87 [Annual Conference of Business Executives] in which the most representative personalities of the country's active forces participated.

Esquivel cited U.S. political analyst Eva Losser on the transition from a military government to a democratic government with civilian hegemony and the problems that affect our current ability to handle the canal. "Those problems should not be considered a threat or even a danger sign. They should make us realize that the process of fulfilling our democratic aspirations is interrelated with the seriousness given to a canal in Panamanian hands." He added that transitions "are not easy. Nor is there a magic formula" to guide the country toward democratic participation. He stressed the importance of sitting down to discuss the country's problems with respect, as was done in CADE 87. He added: As a small country, the security of the canal will depend to a large extent on the respect we have as a nation.

Esquivel said that Panama's capacity to demand higher tolls and a greater participation in canal operation, the capacity to develop the service and tourism sectors, and the administration of the defense of the canal itself will depend to a large extent on the credibility and seriousness with which the entire world regards us. The vice president emphatically affirmed that we have been preparing to take over the responsibility of this great opportunity during our entire republican era. He noted that the "cognitive part of this learning exercise has been established with the participation of those who have approached the various aspects of the problem." We are sure, he affirmed, that by the year 2000 we will be better prepared than we are now.

COSTA RICA

SOVIET AMBASSADOR PAVLOV MEETS OSCAR ARIAS

PA010055 San Jose LA PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 23 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] The possibility that a high USSR official will visit our country was confirmed by Ambassador Yuriy Pavlov following his meeting with President Oscar Arias at Arias' office.

Pavlov said that Vladimir Kazimirov, chief of the First Latin American Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs may be arriving in the next few weeks, but he gave no details.

Pavlov mentioned that a few days ago President Arias and he had agreed to meet to discuss issues regarding international policy and disarmament.

Regarding the Central American problem, he added that his country agrees with Arias' peace plan, in the same measure that his country agrees with any initiative seeking to resolve the situation in the isthmus.

We agree, he said, with the attitude of Mr Arias' government. However, we cannot take a position. This should be done by the presidents at the Esquipulas meeting in Guatemala.

As for citizen Bodhan Kosiy, he said that the subject of Kosiy's extradition has not been discussed during the meeting, but that his country is still interested in this. He emphasized that the USSR Embassy and Government have fulfilled all the requirements for the delivery to the Ukrainian Government of this citizen charged with war crimes. This matter is now in Costa Rican hands, he clarified.

Regarding the possibility that his government may act as a mediator for Nicaragua to withdraw the charges against Costa Rica at the International Court of Justice, he said that the two nations (Costa Rica and Nicaragua) have diplomatic relations, thus this must be settled between the two countries.

BRIEFS

NEW ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT ELECTED -- Costa Rican Deputy Fernando Volio Jimenez was elected president of the National Assembly for the 1987-88 period. He belongs to the National Liberation Party. [Summary] [San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Apr 87 PA]

GUATEMALA

QUINONEZ COMMENTS ON U.S. SPRAYING OF MARIJUANA

PA280331 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 25 Apr 87 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Quinonez has cleared up doubts about whether or not the spraying of Peten marijuana plantations with herbicide by U.S. planes is a violation of our territory.

Quinonez made it very clear that, first of all, no international agreement has been signed to conduct this kind of operation. No agreement at all has been signed to carry out this type of spraying, he said.

However, he added, if Guatemala, as a result of any agreement between the corresponding authorities (in this case this would be the Interior Ministry through the Treasury Police) authorized and gave its consent for the flights by the crop-dusting planes, then there is no violation of our territory.

Foreign Minister Quinonez added that he wanted to clearly state that a meeting was recently held at OAS headquarters in Washington; during that meeting, Latin America's renewed interest in cooperating in the struggle against drugs was expressed.

Guatemala, he said, is a member of that commission. It was represented at the meeting by its ambassador to the OAS and by another Guatemalan Embassy official. He explained that this group was created during the 16th OAS Assembly held in Guatemala.

Therefore, Quinonez added, Guatemala has a moral and legal obligation (because it belongs to the OAS as well as to the commission created against drugs) to struggle against drugs.

The respective commission, he said, has been created precisely to struggle against drugs.

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE STRIKE CONTINUES, GROWS

PDC Leader Criticism

PA282129 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Alfonso Cabrera, secretary general of the Guatemalan Christian Democratic Party [PDC], has issued a call to all Christian Democrats and the people in general to support the government and thus the country's democratic process, which is threatened by movements that apparently are no longer seeking only salary compensations.

Cabrera said that bureaucratic sectors that do not care about the Guatemalan people and the incipient democratic process have forgotten that barely 1 year ago the president took over the government in the midst of economic crisis, following many years of repression, corruption, and squandering.

The bureaucratic sectors involved in strikes disregard the situation of thousands of citizens who are unemployed and who would benefit from the Christian Democratic administration's plans, which are aimed at decreasing unemployment and favoring poor sectors.

These same bureaucrats, who have guaranteed salaries, recently received a salary increase that -- although not up to their expectations -- decreased the economic pressure on their homes and families.

President Vinicio Cerezo proposed to public employees, who are threatening more illegal strikes, that a permanent dialogue commission be formed. They rejected the proposal, however, and resorted to de facto measures.

Although they are allowed by the Constitution to take the legal path, they have chosen not to. They are ignoring the dialogue proposed by the president and, on the contrary, have begun to take actions that most people reject. The incipient democracy cannot survive if those who have secure jobs do not offer their much needed support.

Those who try to destabilize a democratic government within a democracy, who ignore a dialogue, who -- with who knows what intentions -- forget that most Guatemalans will be hurt by a strike or the elimination of government projects aimed at creating jobs, have only thought of their personal interests. They are dragging along thousands of government workers who do not want to participate in destabilizing plans that lead to no good, Cabrera said.

More Public Sectors Join

PA302132 [Editorial Report] Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala at 0400 GMT on 29 April carried a report on the staggered strike by the Trade Union of State Employees. Employees of the Finance Ministry; the Communications, Transport, and Public Works Ministry; the Roads Department; the National Institute of Agrarian Transformation; and education and health sectors have joined that strike. The strike has paralyzed 75 percent of the public administration.

Manuel Meneses, secretary general of the Union of Finance Ministry Employees and head of the Trade Union of State Employees, has said that he has received "anonymous death threats on the telephone."

Presidential Spokesman Julio Santos said that during an extraordinary meeting of the cabinet, "it was agreed to begin collecting lists with the names of the striking employees, because the regime feels that the strike is unlawful."

Finance Minister Rodolfo Paiz Andrade is quoted as saying that "the government will adhere to a negotiating stance and one of respect."

The report noted that riot police will surround the Finance Ministry building to prevent workers from holding rallies inside the building as they did this afternoon. Meneses vowed to stage "demonstrations in the street" if not allowed in the building.

Meneses added that Finance Minister Paiz is harassing employees and "has requested that each member of the committee [not further identified] be arrested and fined 500 quetzals." According to Meneses, the ministry wants to declare "our assemblies illegal, dissolve them, and confirm 1,500 dismissals." Meneses also accused the government of trying to fan a "civil war" with today's peasants' demonstration in Esquintlia. He vowed that employees will not stop striking "until negotiations begin." In conclusion, Meneses said that employees will have to ask "the forces of authority" to intervene. He urged "the diplomatic corps" to mediate the talks with the government.

Labor Negotiations Fail

PA010350 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0105 GMT 1 May 87

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 30 Apr (EFE) -- The strike called by 250,000 Guatemalan public employees today entered its 4th consecutive day with greater strength as the round of negotiations between the trade union directors and the Vinicio Cerezo government failed.

The Union of State Workers [Unidad de Sindicatos y Gremiales de Trabajadores del Estado], which is led by Manuel Meneses, secretary general of the Union of Finance Ministry Workers [Sindicato de Empleados del Ministerio de Finanzas], maintained its stand that "the request for a salary increase must be negotiated."

However, the government is observing a firm stand of not yielding to the $40 increase in the monthly wage, which is what the government workers are demanding.

Alfonso Cabrera, the minister of special affairs of the Presidency, who also heads the government's negotiating commission, said that "the demand for a salary increase is not an issue to be discussed, because there already is a definitive answer." [passage omitted]

When the negotiations failed today, Government Minister Jose Rodil Peralta ordered a greater mobilization of the law-enforcing authorities; thereafter, a "riot" squad took up positions to guard the Finance Ministry and the installations of the National Institute of Electrification (INDE) to prevent any power outages.

"The police are ready to prevent any problems or violations, because if any of these should occur, they will act without any hesitation," said Rodil Peralta, adding that "democracy does not mean weakness but enforcing the law in a correct manner."

However, Legislative Congress President Ricardo Gomez Galvez advocated a "militarization" of the state offices where the strike continues. [passage omitted]

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH YUGOSLAVIA REESTABLISHED

PA251531 Paris AFP in Spanish 0156 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Guatemala City, 24 Apr 87 (AFP) -- Today, the Foreign Relations Ministry announced that Guatemala and Yugoslavia have reestablished diplomatic relations at the embassy level.

A communique from the Foreign Ministry explains that the measure reflects the country's foreign policy of "maintaining friendly relations with those nations with which Guatemala has trade relations or diplomatic interest."

The Yugoslav ambassador to Mexico will be the representative in Guatemala, and the Guatemalan representative to Yugoslav will be Carlos Escobar Armas, Guatemalan ambassador to the Vatican.

The communique states that Yugoslavia has been a good buyer of Guatemalan products, especially coffee, and that it expects that with the reestablishment of diplomatic relations trade between the two countries will improve.

HONDURAS

PDC DEPUTY ON USSR RAPPROCHEMENT PROPOSAL

PA301524 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] [Announcer] Regarding rapprochement with the Soviet Union, proposed by Congress President Carlos Montoya today, we have remarks by Christian Democratic Party [PDC] Deputy Alfredo Landaverde, who said that the alleged Honduran rapprochement with the Soviet Union is not real, but is a movement to exert pressure on the United States.

According to Landaverde, Armed Forces Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez is reportedly behind this maneuver. Why do the Honduran military officers pressure their U.S. allies this way? Let us listen to the interesting statements PDC Deputy Landaverde made to our reporter Douglas Membreno. Landaverde said the Armed Forces are involved in this strategy of pressure against the United States.

[Begin Landaverde recording] Montoya's remarks are nothing new, but it would be interesting to know the reason for them. It seems to me that there are three reasons. Taking into consideration the fact that he is a very intelligent man who is politically very bold, I think one of the reasons is that Carlos is taking advantage of a specific moment propitious for such remarks, and he believes in doing so. Another possibility could be that Montoya is making these statements in an attempt to take advantage of a nationalistic feeling that could be emerging right now for strictly electoral reasons. The other possibility is that Carlos is behind a strategy vis-a-vis the Reagan administration which involves attacking or dividing the United States so that the Democrats of that country will become very worried and rectify certain matters and decisions affecting the Honduran Government. Time will tell which was the true reason for Montoya's remarks.

I repeat, Carlos Montoya feels that this is a job that must be done. If that is what he believes, Nicaragua has every right to have been in the socialist bloc for some time.

However, if he is doing this as an electoral strategy -- this already seems to be giving him good results -- many people are happy about it. There are leftists who began to make public statements about it, and they were very moved by Montoya's statements.

However, it could be a move by the Reagan administration to consolidate certain objectives which are difficult to achieve. [end recording]

[Membreno] According to Landaverde, the Armed Forces, the Security Council, and Armed Forces Commander General Regalado Hernandez could be behind all this.

[Begin Landaverde recording] I think many political analysts in the United States and the region are waiting to see what steps Montoya and the government will take. Carlos did not deny this; he just ignored it. This could even be a strategy of the Honduran Security Council to pressure U.S. congressmen. All that remains to be seen is what Regalado Hernandez thinks.

I think that if this is a Security Council or Honduran Government strategy, Montoya is probably involved in it, too. [end recording]

AZCONA ON SOCIALIST COUNTRIES RAPPROCHEMENT

PA301254 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1130 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Report by David Romero]

[Text] President Jose Azcona Hoyo has described the statements given by National Assembly President Carlos Orbin Montoya as personal viewpoints. Carlos Montoya had said that the United States is not a trustworthy friend.

[Begin recording] [Azcona] Those are Montoya's personal viewpoints. I will not comment on them.

[Reporter] Could there by any rapprochement with socialist countries?

[Azcona] Honduras has trade exchanges with many socialist countries. It even has diplomatic relations with two socialist countries, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia. Regarding trade relations, we have trade relations with many countries.

[Reporter] Could there be any rapprochement with socialist countries in the military field?

[Azcona] No, we have a military agreement with the United States and it will remain in effect.

[Reporter] What can you tell us about Philip Habib's visit?

[Azcona] Habib always comes to Honduras to talk about Contadora issues and now to talk about the Arias peace plan. He comes to talk about Central American issues.

[Reporter] Are you going to New Orleans?

[Azcona] The trip is not confirmed yet, because it seems that President Cerezo has asked for the meeting to be postponed until after the Esquipulas meeting and it could be that [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What can you tell us about the statements given by the Central Bank president who said that the currency could be devaluated because of political, not technical, reasons?

[Azcona] No, it cannot be devaluated and even less for political reasons. Other countries' experiences have shown that it is not advisable for the Honduran people and even less for the lower classes. [end recording]

These were statements by Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo after leaving for San Pedro Sula yesterday afternoon, where he participated in the anniversary celebration of the Fesintranh [Trade Union Federation of Northern Honduran Workers].

CONTRAS PURCHASE LAND IN OLANCHO DEPARTMENT

PA292307 Paris AFP in Spanish 2205 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Tegucigalpa, 28 Apr (AFP) -- The anti-Sandinist FDN may have purchased some 130 square km of land in a remote region in the eastern Department of Olancho, residents from the Rio Patuca area, near the border with Nicaragua, reported today.

They also said that the contras have built a new base in Wampu -- in the northeastern Department of Gracias a Dios, near Olancho, some 60 km from the border with Nicaragua -- where planes land almost daily.

Moreover, because of the firm rejection of businessmen and peasants, who had announced a protest march to Tegucigalpa, the contras desisted from purchasing lands in the Los Laureles area, in the Patuca region, where they had planned to set up a new base or a hospital for the wounded, the villagers reported. [passage omitted]

This remote mountain range is located between Patuca an Rio Segovia, which divides Honduras and Nicaragua. El Tigrito is located next to the Llamales area, 30 km closer to the border, where at the beginning of the year, some 4,000 contras were relocated, according to some residents from the eastern Department of El Paraiso.

Patuca area residents said that the lands in El Tigrito would be used to accomodate relatives of the contras, who used to live in Capire and who had moved to Nicaragua or were relocated in Llamales. [passage omitted]

PCH LAUNCHES COASTAL FINANCIAL CAMPAIGN

PA292351 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0130 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 28 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- This week, the Communist Party of Honduras (PCH) began a financial campaign on the Atlantic coast by selling $2 and $50 bonds.

The bonds have been printed in color -- showing the red flag with the hammer and sickle, and the Honduran flag -- and have the following inscription: "Second National Financial Campaign (PCH). Five-lempiras bond (5 lempiras are equivalent to $2.50)"

According to the daily LA PRENSA, the campaign is promoted by unions, peasants, students, and professionals on the Atlantic coast who are members of nonpartisan organizations.

The PCH appeared on the country's Atlantic coast in 1950. Since that date, it has constantly and secretly grown.

NICARAGUA

U.S. CITIZENS MARCH TO PROTEST LINDER'S DEATH

PA301520 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Carrying white crosses and wearing yellow T-shirts with the slogan Friends for peace, U.S. citizens marched to the U.S. Embassy to protest the killing of Benjamin Ernest Linder, a U.S. volunteer worker. During the protest march, the U.S. citizens said that Linder's murder does not fighten them and that they will continue their work in Nicaragua.

They also reported that the body of the U.S. volunteer will be buried at the place where he was murdered by counterrevolutionary groups.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy installed a closed-circuit television system at its gate to tape the protest march.

FDN Denies Responsibility

PA301243 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1224 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Yesterday in Tegucigalpa the FDN, the main anti-Sandinist group financed by the United States, denied any responsibility for the death of the U.S. citizen in Nicaragua. An FDN spokesman in Tegucigalpa said that Benjamin Linder died on Tuesday near La Camaleona village, 4 km south of San Jose de Bocay in northern Jinotega Department, 70 km from the Honduran border. The U.S. citizen had been working as a volunteer for the Managua government for the past 3 years.

According to the anti-Sandinst spokesman, Linder died in the middle of a shootout between an FDN commando and a group of EPS militias in a region that is the site of constant clashes between both sides.

The Nicaraguan Government has blamed the Reagan administration for Linder's death because it has created, trained, and financed the counterrevolutionary mercenary forces. The Managua authorities said that Linder was kidnapped by the anti-Sandinists, known also as contras, after an attack on La Camaleona. Linder's death brings to 10 the number of foreign volunteers killed in Nicaragua. This victim was from Oregon and was working on the rural development project of (Cuabocay).

The FDN holds the Nicaraguan regime responsible for the death of the U.S. citizen by permitting him to enter an area affected by the country's civil war which is a fight between Nicaraguans in which foreigners should not participate, the spokesman said, reading an official communique.

Linder's death coincided with reports in Tegucigalpa about the beginning of an important FDN meeting somewhere on the Nicaraguan-Honduran border.

Ortega Delivers Eulogy

PA010139 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2301 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Eulogy delivered by President Daniel Ortega at funeral of U.S. citizen Benjamin Linder in Matagalpa -- live]

[Text] Elizabeth, David, Miriam, Joan, Allison, and Robin -- the parents, siblings, and relatives of Comrade Benjamin Linder -- people of the United States, brother Nicaraguans:

Hemingway wrote "For Whom the Bell Tolls" amidst the fire that was consuming the Spanish people. Later, fascism was imposed on the ashes. But on top of the ashes and fascism, there rose the song and the hopes of the people of Garcia Lorca. Today, we stand before Benjamin Linder, a U.S. citizen who, full of love and joy, gave his life for Nicaraguan peasants. He was aware of the danger of working in Nicaragua. He knew how dangerous it was to go to the mountains, to the communities, to contribute his knowledge, his dedication, and his example to improve the peasants' standard of living.

He did not come here on a plane filled with weapons, or with millions of dollars. He arrived on a flight filled with dreams born of his conviction that the ethical values of the U.S. people are much more important than the illegal policy of the U.S. Government. He demonstrated that the U.S. people are noble, and that the U.S. people abhor the murder of Nicaraguan children, women, youths, and peasants. The people of Lincoln are opposed to slavery; they are opposed to terrorism; and they are firm defenders of peace among peoples.

Linder lived and died for the U.S. and Nicaraguan people. From La Camaleona, where the mercenaries killed him in compliance with CIA plans, to El Cua, Rio San Juan, Oregon, and Washington, Benjamin Linder's song of love, peace, and hope is intensified by his sacrifice. What is more powerful than war? What is more powerful than $100 million? What is more powerful than the threat of invasion? Most powerful is the strength and the love of peoples, the example and the sacrifice of men like Benjamin, who brought smiles to the children who saw him dressed in his clown suit, lighting up the future that we are building together in the new Nicaragua.

What wages did he earn? None other than the satisfaction of serving others and treating them as equals. Because he did not earn a salary from the CIA, he was killed along with two Nicaraguan peasants as he was working in the field.

Therefore, for whom does the bell toll here in Nicaragua? For Pierre Grujean, 33, a French doctor who was killed in Rancho Grande. For whom does the bell toll here in Nicaragua? For Ambrosio Mogorron, 34, a Spaniard, a male nurse killed in San Jose de Bocay. For whom does the bell toll here in Nicaragua? For Albert Pflaun, 32, a doctor from the FRG, who was killed in Zompopera. For whom does the bell toll here in Nicaragua? For Maurice Demierre, 29, a Swiss agronomist killed in Somotillo. For whom does the bell toll here in Nicaragua? For Paul Dessers 39, a Belgian civil engineer, killed in Guapotal. For whom does the bell toll here in Nicaragua? For Joel Sieux, 28, a French radio technician killed in Zompopera. For whom does the bell toll here in Nicaragua? For Bernhard Erick Kobers Teyn, 30, of the FRG, a potable water expert killed in Zompopera.

For whom does the bell toll here in Nicaragua? For Ivan Claude Levyraz, 32, a Swiss construction engineer killed in Zompopera. For whom does the bell toll in Nicaragua? For Benjamin Linder, 27, a U.S. engineer killed in La Camaleona, Nicaragua.

For whom does the bell toll here? For over a dozen Cuban teachers, technicians, and volunteers murdered over the years. For whom does the bell toll here? For the 40,000 Nicaraguan victims of U.S. aggression.

May the blood of the innocent move the conscience of the U.S. leaders so that the bells may stop tolling, so that aggression will end, so that military exercises will cease, so that a dialogue with Nicaragua will be accepted, so that they will allow us Latin Americans to negotiate within the Contadora and Support Groups, so that the Central American presidents will be allowed to negotiate, and so that we will be allowed to talk about the peace proposals of the Central American governments, including the constructive proposal in favor of peace that has been presented by the president of the sister country of Costa Rica.

Benjamin's blood clamors: No to war, yes to peace, so that the bells may stop tolling in Nicaragua. [applause]

POLAND, ROMANIA SOLD ARMS TO NICARAGUAN REBELS

PA272007 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1430 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Report by Andrew Steele]

[Text] Stockholm, 27 Apr (REUTER) -- An expert who works for a prominent Swedish arms research institute said today that two Warsaw Pact countries sold a large amount of ammunition to the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels.

Thomas Ohlson, who works at the Research Institute for International Peace in Stockholm said that he knows that Poland and Romania delivered ammunition to the Nicaraguan rightist insurgents.

Ohlson told REUTER that the ammunition was paid for by the United States, which supports the rebels known as contras who are struggling to overthrow the government headed by President Daniel Ortega.

"This shows how commercial interests prevail over political or strategic considerations in the area of international arms sales," Ohlson stressed.

Ohlson added that this also shows that the United States, currently facing world criticism for secretly delivering weapons to Iran, is not the only state where ideology is bypassed on behalf of arms sales contracts.

"This demonstrates that there are no 'good guys' in the arms business," he stressed.

Ohlson noted that the two socialist bloc countries sold the ammunition to obtain foreign exchange, which they felt was more important than supporting President Daniel Ortega's government.

"In the case of large-scale weapons systems, it is natural that political and strategic interests will be taken into consideration in deciding who the buyer will be," he stressed.

However, ammunition, hand-carried weapons, and other similar small systems are not subject to the same considerations, and many states do not care who they are sold to.

Ohlson said that this situation has become more evident during the past few years, because weapons are sold more easily to eager buyers, although regulations in each nation forbid the acquisition or delivery of those supplies.

The Research Institute for International Peace in Stockholm, which is an independent institution financed by the Swedish Parliament, claims to be the only recipient in the world of data on international arms trafficking and also claims that its factual reports reveal the pace of the arms race and the volume of military expense.

The institute, which groups investigators of various nationalities, was partly the inspiration of Olof Palme, the slain Swedish prime minister.

EPS KILLS 18 REGION 5 'TERRORISTS,' SEIZES MATERIEL

PA282239 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] The EPS has killed 18 terrorists who were carrying out sabotage actions in Region 5. The explosives and weapons the mercenaries had were shown this morning to the press.

The warlike materiel was recovered during two operations the EPS carried out this weekend in that area. Army General Humberto Ortega, who is defense minister, recently spoke on the attitude the Army and the peole should have concerning those groups.

[Ortega recording indistinct]

Captain (Rosa Page), chief of public relations of the Defense Ministry, referred to the damage this materiel could have caused:

[Begin (Page) recording] This could have caused considerable damage to our civilian population. For example, there were 24 charges of TNT that could have blown up 24 power towers. [end recording]

The materiel that was recovered included explosives, rifles, walkie-talkies, and other items.

CDS ISSUE WORK PLAN TO FIGHT URBAN CONTRAS

PA240230 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 23 Apr 87 p 4

[Excerpts] The Sandinist Defense Committees [CDS] intend to be active and to contribute determinedly to the intensification of the strategic defeat of the counterrevolution in 1987.

In order to do this, the CDS are already working on the reactivation of revolutionary surveillance throughout the country by taking ideological struggles upon themselves to defeat the enemies in the social, economic, and political areas.

The 1987 work plan approved yesterday by the CDS National Council claims that it is now time for the towns' residents to face Yankee state terrorism.

The work plan points out that faced with military defeat, the CIA and its mercenaries have adopted a new war policy: the sabotage of urban economic targets. The plan adds that revolutionary surveillance should neutralize enemies in the urban areas.

The document stresses the need to give due protection to the masses, and to the 7th IPU Conference, which will take place in Managua while the Yankee government is changing the methods of its dirty war against Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

The plan is divided into nine work sections, and the country's defense is its main priority. The plan states that CDS solidarity with combatants' relatives should be consolidated.

The document stresses that it is not normal to have one, two, or three comrades skilled in the name of the country's defense, while the enemies continue to sabotage economic and social targets.

The work plan points out that CDS revolutionary surveillance should go hand in hand with the work done by the state security to prevent the creation of an internal counterrevolutionary urban front. [passage omitted]

The CDS National Council considers that the passivity of some leaders should end and that there should be more concern for the organizational strengthening of the ranks in the various neighborhoods.

The CDS council added that commercial profiteering should cease without hesitation because it distorts the economy and creates individualistic attitudes in the population.

The CDS requested regional, state, and neighborhood leaders to work voluntarily as inspectors for the Domestic Trade Ministry to control internal trade. [passage omitted]

LABOR LEADER ON VOLUNTARY WORK DURING WEEKEND

PA252310 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 24 Apr 87 p 4

[Text] As a result of power outages, thousands of yards of fabrics, soft drinks, harvesting equipment, and industrial products important for the country's economy cannot be produced. In the streets, bus stops are crowded with people whose faces reflect the long hours spent waiting anxiously. It is necessary to do something. The voluntary work that workers will perform this weekend will help.

Transport workers will get some spare parts and repair some buses, and the Nicaraguan Institute of Energy (INE) will try to reduce the power outages. In several factories, workers will provide maintenance for the equipment to prevent deterioration, or to produce more, which is demanded by people.

Lucio Jimenez, secretary general of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers, told BARRICADA that the work this weekend will be a demonstration of the power of the working class, because workers have joined discussions at several enterprises and are offering criticism, seeking to transform the enterprises with many problems and low productivity into productive enterprises.

More than 22,000 workers from the different branches of the economy, the sugar mills, textile factories, metalworking industry, conductors, and chemicals and food industries have participated in this discussion.

Jimenez said that the rank-and-file discussion, which is not yet completed, will permit them to gather the positive and the negative experiences. [sentence as published] "Discussions have been very fruitful because we have developed an increasing tendency toward an additional effort, with which the working class receives sufficient morale to make decisions about the administrative problems," Jimenez said.

During Holy Week, some 89 companies started to operate their machinery, which was being operated by thousands of workers. Lucio Jimenez noted the effort made by the sugar mills, power plants, and some food processing plants that do not cease production during the holidays. However, he praised those who made this effort by their own initiative.

The economic brigades accomplished a lot of work. In La Completa, 22 workers participated in production work; in Metasa, in an enterprise in the metalworking industry, the brigade provided support for the IPU meeting; and in the people's metallurgic industry, 50 workers helped in the construction works of this project.

At the Nicaraguan textile industry (Granada), workers worked the entire week and produced 1,000,800 pounds of thread; at the nail factory in Masaya, laborers worked the entire week and processed 86 metric tons of metal. The workers at the banana plantations were transporting the fruit almost the entire week. At the Managua railroad, the economic brigade repaired three engines and did repair work on three other units.

In the transport sector, 20 Van Pac workers transported basic grains to settlements and special zones and participated in the evacuation of the peasants north of Nueva Guinea.

WORKERS WANT STATE OF EMERGENCY SUSPENDED

PA271323 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0332 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] Managua, 26 Apr (DPA) -- Today in Managua, the Social Christian Workers Front (Fretrasc) of Nicaragua demanded an end to the state of emergency, which has been enforced since 1982 as an immediate step toward democratization and national dialogue and an end to the war ravaging Nicaragua.

The meeting of workers who comprise the Fretrasc was held in a local theater under strict police vigilance, because it was thought that the workers might carry out an unauthorized march.

The workers likewise advocate the seven opposition parties' seven-point [as received] proposal, which was presented in February. The proposal includes a cease-fire between the contras and the Army to stop the loss of so many lives and immediately begin overall political talks.

The event was attended by Christian Democratic parliamentary members who will participate in the 77th IPU Conference that begins tomorrow in Managua. Social Christian Party leader Agustin Jarquin said that the police banned many buses and trucks from Managua which carried Social Christian workers from the countryside.

REGIME TRYING TO 'FORCE' 'LA PRENSA' BANKRUPTCY

PA251222 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0051 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Managua, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE) -- The directors of the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA of Nicaragua today charged that the Sandinist government has perpetrated "more aggressions" against that paper -- which was closed for an indefinite period in June -- in an attempt to "force it into bankruptcy."

The source also said that the insistent rumors going around the country that the dissident newspaper will "soon" reopen are "false."

According to LA PRENSA directors, such rumors have been launched by the Sandinist government itself "in an attempt to keep the people confused, misled, and living on hopes and promises."

The source affirmed that LA PRENSA is "always ready" to reappear, "but only when the government allows the Nicaraguans to once again enjoy their right to be freely informed," and provided readjustments are made in accordance with the current economic situation.

The directors emphasized that "the essential condition for LA PRENSA's reopening is the full reinstatement of the freedom of expression in Nicaragua."

The owners of the newspaper, founded over 60 years ago, recalled that the Sandinist government had censored it for over 4 years.

The Managua authorities ordered the indefinite closure of the daily newspaper on 26 June 1986 on the grounds that the paper had become the spokesman of the Reagan administration.

According to the directors, the Sandinists, "not satisfied" with the indefinite closure, "have renewed their aggressions against the paper and its directors."

The directors affirmed that the Labor Ministry is attempting to force LA PRENSA to pay its workers their full salaries even though their contracts were inevitably suspended -- in strict compliance with current labor laws -- as soon as the suspension became effective.

They added that the enterprise continued paying salaries for 2 months after the suspension "for humane reasons" in an attempt "to soften the unemployment caused by the Sandinist government."

The directors charged that "aside from continuing to trample upon the freedom of thought and freedom of expression, with this arbitrary measure the Sandinist government is attempting to force the newspaper LA PRENSA into bankruptcy."

The directors, headed by Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, explained that "it is easy to imagine that any enterprise such as LA PRENSA, after 10 months of not earning a single cent, has several financial problems."

Initially, the labor force employed by LA PRENSA amounted to over 2000 employees, but now there is only a skeleton crew that still is able to put out small editions of the paper.

The directors pointed out that it was necessary to sell part of the enterprise's assets in order to maintain a small group of employees "in case the newspaper goes back into circulation."

The "new aggression" is viewed by the directors as "a sustained effort on the part of the government to destroy this newspaper because it represents the Nicaraguans' hope to once again have the opportunity to freely express themselves."

Managua government leaders have said that LA PRENSA may appear again as soon as the U.S. Government stops the military, economic, political, and diplomatic aggression it has been using against this country.

D'ESCOTO RETURNS FROM AFRICAN, ASIAN TOUR

PA231308 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0400 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto returned to Nicaragua today after an extended tour through various African and Asian countries. Deputy Foreign Minister Hugo Tinoco and other Foreign Ministry officials met him at the Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport.

D'Escoto said that his tour was very good for Nicaragua and that the countries he visited were very receptive to Nicaragua's positions.

IPU MEETING OPENS AT OLOF PALME CONVENTION CENTER

Ortega Dedicates Center

PA270444 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0254 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Speech by President Daniel Ortgea Saavedra at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua on 26 April -- live]

[Text] To (Lizbeth), (Joaquin), (Marce), and (Mathias). To the people of Sweden:

On 4 February 1915, our poet Ruben Dario said at Columbia University in New York: I cry peace, peace, and peace. He said this in Italian. I now cry the same myself, soul in soul, hand in hand with the emerging countries. In February 1986, Olof Palme, full of love for his fellow men, like Dario repeated to the world: I cry peace, peace and peace. The news of his murder moved all peace-loving peoples, especially the people of Nicaragua. The triumph of the Sandinist revolution brought together the peoples of Sweden and Nicaragua, and leaders like Palme, devoid of all spirit of selfishness, have always concerned themselves with the cause of justice, liberty, self-determination, and independence of Third World countries.

During his visit to Nicaragua in February 1984, he stressed his support for international law to guarantee sovereignty, self-determination, sovereign equality, and territorial integrity -- valid for countries of the world, with special emphasis on Nicaragua.

Regarding Palme's relation with our government, he said: We give our full support to the government, as its Constitution is a declaration of independence. I understand Nicaragua's difficult situation, because this country is under the microscope. You are waging a war, and despite this you are improving the country's economy and the institutionalization of the process. We are fully aware of the problem, and this has become decisive in international world opinion. Nicaragua's enemies do not want elections to be held. That would fan the fire of imperialist goals. That is why it is important for Nicaragua to hold elections -- we had elections in November of that year.

During his lifetime, Palme continuously backed Nicaragua's liberation process. As head of government, he defended the principles of nonintervention, in which his foreign policy reflected a constant interest in Nicaragua. This political sensibility and interest for Nicaragua, not only covered the defense of our revolution in international forums, but brought about constantly increasing economic, scientific, and cultural aid in such sensitive areas as education, health, mining, forestry, energy, and agriculture.

Olof Palme's spirit of determination was so vigorous that it still guides and inspires all of Sweden and other Nordic and international community countries that are linked to Nicaragua for constructive purposes.

Palme was decidedly a peace fighter, representing Sweden in the Group of 10...[corrects himself] of 6. He worked toward world detente up until the last minute. Those who murdered him did it with the clear purpose of eliminating him, whom they considered an obstacle to their warmongering policies. They rejoiced at his death. The peoples were also hit by the impact of the shots fired at Olof Palme.

The Nicaraguan people found in him a brother, to whom tribute is rendered today, for whom we name this convention center. Here the sweat and blood of the Nicaraguan workers who defend their fatherland from the foreign aggressor merges with the sweat of the Swedish workers and the blood of Olof Palme, which is our own blood, spilt like our own blood for the cause of peace.

The 77th IPU Conference opens here tomorrow. We are certain that the strength of Olof Palme, in defense of peace, justice, and liberty, will be present at this event. [applause]

Ortega Gives Opening Speech

PA272217 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1640 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Speech by President Daniel Ortega at the opening of the 77th IPU conference at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua -- live; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...all the peoples of the world. In 1889, the first interparliamentary conference was attended by nine countries. Today, the IPU is formed by 107 countries.

This conference gathers representatives of countries with the most diverse currents of philosophical, political, and ideological opinion, all rushing tributaries of the same mighty river which we want to preserve and defend: that of life, peace, and security for all mankind.

Mr Hans Stercken, esteemed parliamentarians, brothers all: Welcome to this Central American land which is proud to receive for the first time in its history the representatives of the IPU at its 77th conference.

Welcome to Nicaragua, a country of hard-working peasants, tenacious workers, craftsmen of [words indistinct] wood and metal, bold innovators, technicians, teachers, intellectuals, health workers, unselfish professionals, and marvelous artists who are the best expression of the imagination that emerges from the people. Welcome from the combatants of the people who ensure the holding of this event. Welcome to this land of the Subtiava, Monimbo, Miskito, Rama, and Sumu Indians, of the Garifonos [people of black-Indian descent], of blacks, whites, and mestizos, and of men, women, children, and the elderly who today defend the right to life, peace, and respect for the international legal order by giving up their lives and by making sacrifices.

Welcome from the Nicaraguan Government and all the political parties which through their support for the revolution or through their speeches critical of the revolution are the vital expression of the political pluralism that the Nicaraguan revolutionaries preach and practice.

Welcome to the land of Ruben Dario, Augusto Santino, Rigoberto Lopez, and Carlos Fonesca.

Messrs Delegates, as a nonaligned country, Nicaragua has been and is a firm defender of peace, a peace understood as it should be, in other words, indissolubly linked to respect for the UN Charter. Peace is the synthesis of justice, freedom, and self-determination and rejects any type of ideological, political, economic, financial, trade, or military hegemony.

The developed countries have the key to open the doors of peace and with it the real possibility of shaking up and reorganizing the current international economic order to the benefit of the moral values of justice and equity which should govern the relations among peoples.

A halt to the arms race and effective and realistic efforts for disarmament would have the immediate effect of bringing security and happiness to all mankind. At the same time, this would free technological, financial, and human resources.

Then we would have resources available to face social, economic, fiscal, and financial problems that are even affecting developed countries. The basic conditions would be fostered to implement an economic policy between North and South that would give dynamism to the economies of the developing countries. All of this would benefit the world economy since the bases would be established for a new economic order which, guided by the spirit of justice, would find a point of equilibrium in order to stabilize economic relations all over the world.

Developed nations accept paying annual military costs that total $780 billion. Moreover, the developed and developing countries annually spend $504 billion on health matters. That is, every year $240 [figure as heard] billion more is spent on the arms race than on health. Over $2 billion is spent daily on the ominous expenditures of the policies which drag mankind on the path toward suicide. If we compare these figures with the total foreign debt accumulated toward the end of the war by developing countries against fascism, the figure is $778 billion. This debt could be canceled with the overall military expenditures of only one year, and there would still be resources available to invest in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition, illiteracy, and unemployment.

Peace necessarily would bring justice, freedom, and democracy. Mankind is demanding specific actions for peace by the superpowers, which, because of their military and economic power, have turned into determining elements in reaching peace. Peace demands that actions that would stop the arms race be carried out immediately, that processes be started to reduce atomic arsenals, and that existing agreements be respected.

The Nonaligned Movement has clearly supported dialogue between Soviet and U.S. leaders that would result in a new era of detente all over the world.

We also have supported the initiatives by the Group of Six and the realistic proposals presented by the USSR to the United States.

Beyond the complexities and mistrust inherent in this subject, experience shows that dialogue is possible. There are specific proposals that can be the starting point. We must encourage, support, and enrich such proposals, particularly now when a favorable political atmosphere exists, which is the product of the international consensus demanding maturity, flexibility, and audacity in the dialogue between the superpowers.

The imminent risk of a nuclear disaster and the worsening of the regional conflicts must end. The revolution of peace, progress, and democracy should be the great revolution that sets the path for men and women on earth toward happiness.

Dear parliamentarians, through various paths in Latin America and the Caribbean [words indistinct] in the peoples' activities create space for democracy. A true battle is waged these days to defend and consolidate open spaces.

Oligarchic groups and certain fascist military men, encouraged by the most reactionary sectors in the United States, refuse to acknowledge these achievements. They are the same reactionary sectors that directed, planned, and carried out the toppling of the constitutional government of Salvador Allende in Chile.

They are the same who accept and back the fascist regimes that oppress the peoples of Chile and Paraguay.

They are the same who, ignoring the principles of self-determination of the peoples and econo-[illegible]c justice as vital factors of democracy, foster economic policies that negate economic and social stability. They are the same who approve the execution of terrorist actions against legally constituted states, such as Nicaragua.

This conference takes place at a time when the military encirclement is drawn tighter through military exercises unprecedented in our region. These exercises involve more than 50,000 U.S. soldiers equipped to prepare for a direct intervention against our homeland. These bad policies endanger the democratization process for justice and self-determination that we of the Latin American and Caribbean peoples firmly build and defend.

Distinguished parliamentarians, rising above these difficult circumstances, we in Nicaragua have continued to strengthen the democratic regime that the people's will established on 19 July 1979. Nonalignment, political pluralism, and a mixed economy are the bases of Nicaraguan society. These principles already have been established in the Constitution. This is an open-door process for all of the world's political forces, which have shown a contructive interest in Nicaragua after the revolutionary triumph. Delegations of the Socialist International, Conservative International, Christian Democratic International, Liberal International, and of the Communist, Socialist, Democrat, and Republican Parties, the latter from the U.S. Congress, calmly discuss in our homeland the present and the future of the Sandinist people's revolution. We have kept and will continue to keep our country open to all ideological trends without impairing the basic principles of the revolutionary process as established and determined by the Nicaraguan people.

Sandinism thinks that an ideological and political debate enriches the revolutionary process. Also, we are convinced that to reinforce our plan it is even more necessary to develop multilateral relations both here and abroad. We advocate freedom of expression and political organization for all the trends of opinion that wish to express and organize themselves in the context of the laws that rule Nicaraguan society. There is a state of emergency, which will cease when foreign aggression ceases. Some restrictive measures that have resulted from the state of emergency have affected those who have become accomplices of the aggressors, thus violating the laws of the Republic. We can say, however, that, civically speaking, all parties have and will always have similar rights and duties as set forth in the Constitution.

Dear delegates, the institutionalization of democracy in Nicaragua should be understood as a contribution to and a valuable support for the continent's political opportunities as confronted by the constant threat of a military coup by fascist sectors conspiring from within the armed forces of some Latin American countries. The Nicaraguan revolution contributes to the Latin American democratization process the creativity, firmness, and flexibility of Nicaragua's international policy in accord with our historical reality and the current political situation of our peoples.

In this way, democracy does not risk a military coup, because it is the people alone who exert the sovereign right of defense. This explains why U.S. leaders again make historic mistakes. Instead of backing the Nicaraguan democratization process, they have become coup participants and wage a (?cruel) war that has already cost the Nicaraguan people 40,027 casualties and $2.8 billion in direct and indirect losses.

This policy of state terrorism that has taken the form of mining our ports, air attacks, and blowing up bridges and fuel storage tanks has resulted in the destruction of homes, schools, and health centers, and the murder and kidnapping of women, children, and teachers. In effect, Nicaragua has suffered more casualties in these 6 years of aggression than the number of casualties that the United States suffered in the four great wars in which it has participated since early in the century. More than 6 years of economic aggression and terrorist actions condemned by the International Court of Justice and the international community have already resulted in casualties equivalent to 1.25 percent of the Nicaraguan population. Nicaragua has (?called on) the U.S. leaders to cease their illegal policy, abiding by the decision of the International Court of Justice. We are ready to initiate a dialogue with the United States. We back Contadora's peace initiatives. We are convinced that the Central American peoples desire peace. In the Guatemala meeting [words indistinct] for peace.

Dear president and parliamentarians, Nicaragua wishes you success in your activities, because the result will be an important contribution toward the peace that all the peoples of the world so much desire. Let us turn every inch of the surface of the earth into a zone of peace. Let us turn the stars into a huge zone of peace. Let us turn our hearts into a trench of peace. The universe is infinite. Earth is but a small seed of wheat lost in the firmament. Let us not destroy this seed.

In the opening of this very important event we want to confirm the support of the Nicaraguan people and Government for the Argentine people and Government which, headed by our dear friend Dr Raul Alfonsin, has faced critical moments that threaten to close the political spaces already opened by the Argentine people's heroism and resolve. We Nicaraguans will always side with the Argentine people and their democratic will, yet we will always be against fascist and coupist stances. [passage indistinct]

We confirm our solidarity with the Chilean, Paraguayan, and Haitian peoples. We continue to back a peaceful resolution of the conflict in the friendly Republic of El Salvador, where the Salvadoran revolutionaries stress dialogue to achieve peace.

To the African continent's south, we extend our solidarity with the heroic South African people and the people of Namibia, who will surely defeat and extirpate the scurrilous apartheid regime. Nicaragua backs the efforts under way to hold the international peace conference about the Middle East with the participation of all involved parties, including the PLO. We also back the enforcement of the UN Security Council's resolutions for a just and lasting peace in Lebanon. Nicaragua appeals to the friendly peoples of Iran and Iraq to stop the war and actively work for peace. We reiterate our full solidarity with Cyprus and our rejection of the illegal and separatist actions of those who illegallly occupy the nation, an occupation that should be condemned by all those who advocate peace based on respect for norms of law and territorial integrity.

We repeat that Nicaragua is willing to reach firm and verifiable accords so that Central America can become a zone of peace free from all foreign military presence. We are prepared to begin negotiations with the United States to reach firm and verifiable accords based on genuine interests of mutual security and to normalize the relations between the two countries.

Nicaragua actively supports the creation of the Central American parliament and the institutionalization of the Latin American parliament. Nicaragua backs the pacification efforts of the Contadora and Support Groups.

We also back the tremendous efforts that the EEC has been making for a peaceful resolution and to reject a policy of force.

This country's casualties -- who have fallen defending the country against aggression -- include 2,038 women, 1,996 children, 176 teachers, and 52 doctors. Casualties include 9,121 war orphans and more than 250,000 displaced peasants. I want to tell you that if the United States had to suffer this very type of aggression, this same type of war, it would have suffered a total of 3 million casualties in these 6 years of war. In the four great wars in this century, the United States has suffered 2,406,281 casualties. In other words, in 6 years of aggression similar to the one that Nicaragua has been suffering against its population the United States would have suffered a larger number of casualties than those killed in Nicaragua. That is to say, if the United States were subjected to this type of aggresssion, only to mention some data, its casualties would include 153,000 women, 149,400 children, 13,200 teachers, and 3,600 doctors.

We acknowledge the values present in the U.S. society, in the U.S. people, in the U.S. Congress, and in all the representatives to the U.S. Congress who have demonstrated in the streets of Washington today to protest the U.S. Government's policy in Central America and South Africa. We hope that these values of the U.S. people [words indistinct] on the current U.S. policies.

On behalf of this heroic Nicaraguan people, on behalf of its workers, peasants, laborers, technicians, and professionals, I can tell you we are sure that here with determination, will, and courage, we will turn our hearts into trenches of peace. I have said the universe is infinite and that the earth is but a small grain of wheat lost in the firmament. Let us not destroy this seed. Let us contribute our determination, will, and courage to make this seed germinate. In this way we would be in agreement with the moral principles that all of us claim we uphold. We are sure that Olof Palme's pacifist vocation, in whose memory the Nicaraguan workers built this center, will be present in the discussions and conclusions of this conference.

IPU President Stercken Speaks

PA281404 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1625 GMT 27 Apr 87

["Speech" by IPU Council President Hans Stercken at the opening of the 77th IPU Conference at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua -- live in English with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish; broadcast in progress]

[Text] ...of the world and the death of approximately 55 million people have led to the realization that peace is not created with treaties or impositions but by organizing cooperation. Historians know that no peace has been permanent if it has not led to cooperation among former rivals and adversaries.

Unions and alliances among states have the objective of jointly guaranteeing peace and security. Through cooperation, tensions between East and West in Europe can be permanently overcome. I believe this is possible. War is not the origin of everything. War is death. We want life. That is why together we must guarantee life.

In contradiction of these ideas of peace, many men die a cruel death every day because we organize division instead of cooperation.

Assembly President Nunez Speaks

PA280441 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1616 GMT 27 Apr 87

["Part" of speech by Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, president of the National Assembly, to the 77th IPU Conference at the Olof Palme Convention Center in Managua -- live]

[Text] Members of the Executive Committee of the Interparliamentary Union, Mr Pierre Cornillon, secretary general of the IPU meeting, gentlemen from the diplomatic corps, invited guests, and members of the IPU:

The Nicaraguan National Assembly, through me, welcomes you to the fatherland of Sandino, Ruben Dario, and Carlos Fonseca.

Nicaragua, the site of the 77th IPU Conference, wishes to express its gratitude for this gesture of confidence by the delegations that are currently visiting us.

Our country and our people are particularly honored, because this is the first time that such an honorable forum has met on Central American soil. Therefore, we believe that your presence here is a recognition of our desire for peace for our brother countries and for a future of cooperation and solidarity.

We meet in this land, convinced that the political and ideological differences are not an obstcle when we share hopes for peace. This conference is an example of that.

All groups in this country reaffirm the need to find solutions through discussions and dialogues.

Opposition Leaders Meet

PA290429 Managua Radio Noticias in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] The IPU president will meet today with the representatives of the seven Nicaraguan opposition parties that signed the document for peace and democracy. Eric Ramirez, president of the Social Christian Party [PSC], hereby reports to the listeners of "The Awakening" [newscast].

[Begin Ramirez recording] The PSC has been meeting with the Christian Democrats attending the IPU meeting. We also met on Sunday at the closing ceremony of the Workers Party Congress at the America Theater with Rodolfo Maldonado, the special envoy of President Vinicio Cerezo and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Commission of the Guatemalan Congress, who greeted the Workers Party during that event. Margarita Palacios, the special assistant of former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, who is the secretary general of the International Christian Democrats, also attended the meeting. Other delegates from the Christian Democratic Organization of America, ODCA, also attended the meeting, as well as Oscar Martinez of the Latin American Workers and [name indistinct] of the Christian Democratic Youth Organization of America. All of them came to voice thir support for the Social Christian Party in its struggle for the recovery of democracy in Nicaragua.

All of the Christian Democratic parliamentarians attending the IPU conference will hold meetings with the party, and these meetings will be held throughout the time the conference lasts. Pronouncements and documents will be issued later.

IPU President Hans Stercken will hold a meeting with the presidents of the seven political parties. This will be a very important meeting, because Hans Stercken is the top authority in world parliaments, and he is very interested in learning more about the document signed by the seven political parties. Therefore, the meeting with Mr Stercken will be held today. [end recording]

Ortega Receives GDR Official

LD282351 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1842 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] Managua, 28 Apr (ADN) -- Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega had a friendly talk in Managua on Monday evening with Prof Dr Eberhard Poppe, head of the GDR delegation to the 77th IPU Conference. The deputy chairman of the GDR IPU delegation conveyed to the Nicaraguan head of state warmest greetings from Erich Honecker, chairman of the GDR State Council, which were reciprocated.

President Ortega praised the friendly and close cooperation between the two states and the GDR's firm solidarity with his country. Eberhard Poppe assured him that the GDR will continue to support the just struggle of the Nicaraguan people against external interference and for independence and self-determination.

The two sides agreed that the successful course of the 77th IPU Conference would contribute to further raising Nicaragua's international standing.

BRIEFS

DANISH SOCIALISTS FSLN DONATION -- Denmark's leftist Socialist Party yesterday donated $7,000 to the FSLN to promote the Nicaraguan people's right to defend themselves and reject the aggressive U.S. policy against Nicaragua. This will be a yearly donation. It was the result of a decision by members of this party who rejected a salary increase to protest the fact that it was not extended to other sectors in the country. [Summary] [Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 4 Apr 87 p 12 PA]

CANADA CANCELS DEBT -- The Governments of Nicaragua and Canada today signed an amendment to loans granted by Canada for the integral development of Momotombo. The amendment was signed by Jose Angel Buitrago, deputy minister of foreign cooperation, and by Canadian Ambassador to Nicaragua Stanley Gouch. Nicaragua still owes 13 million Canadian dollars to Canada as result of Canadian loans to this Central American nation. With the signing of the amendment, the debt has become a donation by Canada. [Summary] [Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 29 Apr 87 PA]

FIVE AMBASSADORS APPOINTED -- Managua, 31 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Nicaraguan Government today announced the following ambassadorial appointments: Commander Olga Viles Lopez to Vietnam, Cesar Arostegui to India, and Francisco Campbell to Zimbabwe. Two other appointments were announced yesterday: Raul Rana Castellon to Yugoslavia and Orestes Papi Perez to Italy. [Summary] [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1307 GMT 1 Apr 87 PA]

NATIONAL CDR LEADERS MEET TO DISCUSS 1 MAY

FL301544 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] The second meeting of the national leaders of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution [CDR] has spoken in favor of continuing the revision of the current role of the CDR, its systems of information, emulation, and its structure.

The report stressed the importance of CDR tasks linked to the support of health plans, especially blood donations, construction of family doctor home-offices, education, and others. In addition, it was reported that all the provinces and the special municipality, Isle of Youth, fulfilled their tasks in 1986.

During the meeting, CDR National Coordinator Armando Acosta underscored the CDR members 1 May goals. [Begin recording] It is our decision to convert 1 May into one of the most victorious marches of the combatant people. All our leading cadres from the provinces and the national directorate will begin here, making every effort to make this 1 May march of the combatant people rise to the height of the revolutionary process that we live and to reflect the spirit of rectification and the revolution's renewal. [applause] [end recording]

ANAP Issues Message

FL302155 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] A message from the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP] has been issued in this capital. The Cuban peasants are noted to be in an indestructible alliance with the working class as they mark this May Day, Internatinal Workers Day. The document adds that today more than ever the workers and peasants honor unity in the red banners of socialism in their progress toward the agrarian reform, the struggle against negative tendencies, and work for the consolidation of the cooperative movement. This year's May Day has special significance for the ANAP, which adds to the international labor fete the warmth of its seventh congress when the peasant family will confirm its decision of incorporating most of the land into cooperatives during the current 5-year period. The message ends by citing Jose Marti with the words: Man grows with the work of his hands.

Workers Union Bestows Medals

FL302353 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] A solemn ceremony was held at the Cuban Revolutionary Naval Academy as part of the salute of the National Agricultural, Livestock and Forestry Workers Union [SNTA] to the International Workers Day. The title of Work Hero of the Republic of Cuba and the Lazaro Pena medal, first class, was conferred to Comrade Ramon Castro Ruz. Likewise, 261 of the union's national vanguards were given the badge. Some 15 of the peasant vanguards received th Antero Regalado Award. Also, 27 young people signed the youth labor honor book during the ceremony.

Luis Simeon Salinas, secretary general of the union, made the keynote speech. The ceremony ended with a military review and a FAR civilian workers parade.

GUATEMALAN REBELS CLAIM 42 GOVERNMENT CASUALTIES

PA252223 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Rebel forces have inflicted 42 casualties on the regime's army during several clashes in western Solola, according to a communique from the URNG. According to the document, reported by the news agency ENFOPRENSA, the most important military operation occurred on 19 April when Guatemalen guerrilla forces ambushed on Army convoy on the highway between Santiago Atitlan and San Lucas Toliman. The government forces sustained 37 casualties, including 2 officers on that occasion.

More on Conflict

PA252316 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] The wave of violence in Guatemala has increased, and 12 additional deaths were reported on Friday, according to a report from government spokesman Carlos Escoto in Guatemala City.

Guatemalan opposition Deputy Victor Hugo Godoy referred to this and other recent events, and said that the country is slowly returning to the black days of the death squads.

The new victims include university student Edgar Ascensio, who was kidnapped on Thursday with another person in the capital. Five members of a family were strangled to death near the Rio Bravo, and peasant Juan Francisco Rivas was shot to death in Escuintla Department. Also, unidentified persons machinegunned a top-level Army official in southern Guatemala City.

GUATEMALAN PUBLIC WORKERS ON 3D DAY OF STRIKES

PA302351 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Guatemalan public workers began their 3d day of strikes on Wednesday to demand wage increases. The participants in the protest movement, which include some 200,000 workers, have begun to demand the resignation of the economy, finance, labor and social welfare, education, and public health ministers, whom they blamed for the failure of the Christian Democratic government.

Guatemalan labor union leaders denounced the dismissal of workers in the Finance, Public Health, and Social Welfare Ministries and in the National Institute of Electrification as part of the reprisals taken against the strikers.

Vinicio Cerezo's government has refused to grant the wage increases demanded by the public workers.

YUGOSLAVIA DENIES SENDING ARMS TO CONTRAS

PA241713 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Aleksandar Stanic, a spokesman for Yugoslav foreign affairs, denied any link between his country and the sending of arms to the Nicaraguan counterrevolution, and rejected it as an absurd and tendentious report by the Western press media.

FOREIGN MINISTERS DISCUSS ARIAS PEACE PLAN

PA252016 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 87

["Focus" feature by Amalia Sanmartino]

[Text] The foreign ministers of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Costa Rica met in Guatemala City on Thursday to analyze certain aspects of the document presented by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias. The results of the meeting -- in preparation for the Esquipulas summit to be held in June -- were not disclosed publicly. However, it was reported that during the meeting, an attempt was made to resolve certain objections raised by Honduras and El Salvador to the Costa Rican plan.

As many may recall, among its most important aspects, the Arias plan promotes a cease-fire in the region, dialogues between the parties in conflict, and free and democratic elections in the countries of the area, including Nicaragua.

It is interesting to note that the document drafted by the Costa Rican president places particular emphasis on the talks. It insisted Nicaragua must hold talks with the counterrevolutionary groups attacking it.

Although an effort has been made stressing these talks should be similar to those the Jose Napoleon Duarte regime would have to hold with the insurgent forces, the difference leaves no room for argument because the FMLN does not have the U.S. advice to destabilize a democratic government. On the contrary, the FMLN is fighting for the nation's welfare and progress. Since an effort is being made to establish a similarity between the Salvadoran guerrillas and the anti-Nicaraguan mercenary bands, it is healthy to cite a statement made by President Daniel Ortega on Thursday when he toured the installations that are being built in Managua to lodge the participants of the upcoming IPU meeting.

Regarding this, Ortega recalled that the counterrevolution was created, financed, and directed by the U.S. Government. Nicaragua, he emphasized, reiterates that it is willing to talk with President Ronald Reagan and the rest of the U.S. leaders who are the bosses of the mercenaries.

The Nicaraguan position has always been clear and firm in this regard and to elaborate on it would be redundant. Observers feel that this will be the main topic at the upcoming Esquipulas meeting. If this is so, the Nicaraguan Government is prepared and alert.

U.S.-HONDURAN JOINT MILITARY MANEUVERS OBSERVED

FL251643 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1417 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] Some 1,000 U.S. soldiers are already in the Atlantic coast of Honduras to conduct the "Solid Shield" joint maneuvers which began today in Central America with the participation of 50,000 U.S. servicemen. The maneuvers will be staged in the Central American Atlantic area and the Caribbean. The first phase of the exercises, considered the largest and most aggressive conducted by the U.S. and Honduran armies, will begin at North Carolina's Camp le Jeunne. The maneuver's second phase will begin 13 May with the landing of U.S. and Honduran navy and amphibian forces near Puerto Castilla, north of Tegucigalpa. General John Galvin, chief of the U.S. Southern Command, stationed in Panama stated that the maneuvers are a warning for Nicaragua.

SALVADORAN GROUP DEMANDS END TO GOVERNMENT TERROR

PA260321 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Apr 87

[Text] A Salvadoran Christian humanitarian organization has demanded the end to the regime's counterinsurgency operations, which have resulted in 4 people killed, 1 reported missing, 33 detained, and 127 families displaced this year.

The Christian Committee for Displaced in El Salvador [Comite Cristiano Pro Desplazados en El Salvador] has reported that the government's army has suspended civil rights and maintains a campaign of terror and psychological pressure against the residents of at least five cantons in Usulutan Department in the country's east.

It has also been reported that seven people were killed and another seven were detained during the regime's operations in Chalatenango Department.

AFGHAN FOREIGN MINISTER SPEAKS AT HAVANA MEETING

LD010821 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Kabul, April 30, OANA-BAKHTAR -- The delegation of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, DRA, took an active participation in the sixth session of ministers of Group 77 held in Havana, said a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the DRA to a BAKHTAR reporter.

The Afghan delegation headed by Abdul Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPACC [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee] and minister of foreign affairs, expressed the views of the DRA to the session concerning the present international economic situation, trade, international development and in support of the campaign of UNCTAD for the establishment of an international new economic order under the conditions when imperialism is striving more than ever before for the destabilisation of the economic order in the world.

Abdul Wakil, the head of the Afghan delegation, had a meeting with Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba, president of the Councils of State and Ministers. He informed the Cuban leader on the country's situation, the progress of the implementation of the policy of national reconciliation and the situation around the DRA. Reciprocally Fidel Castro once again expressed his support to the domestic and foreign policy of the DRA headed by the PDPA.

Likewise, Abdul Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA had separate meeting with Carlos Rafael, a member of Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba and vice-president of the Council of State, Jorge Risquet Valdes, Politburo member, secretary of the Central Committee of CPC and the head of the International Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, minister of foreign affairs of Cuba and some other party and state officials. They exchanged views on the matters of mutual interest.

The foreign ministers of the DRA and the Republic of Cuba also signed a protocol of cooperation on economic, scientific and technical spheres, said the spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

ANPP RECEIVES VENEZUELAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION

FL302125 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1933 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Luis Mendez Morejon, secretary of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], received today in this capital a delegation of the Republic of Venezuela headed by Deputy Angel La Rosa, vice president of the Chamber of Deputies. During the meeting, which was held in a climate of sincere friendship, the increasing unity ties being developed among our continent's parliament members were made evident.

La Rosa expressed his satisfaction with visiting Cuba and having the opportunity to participate tomorrow in the main ceremony marking May Day which will be celebrated by all workers and peasants. The interest of the Cuban Parliament in exchanging working experiences was noted.

Deputies Guillermo Garcia Aponte and Rafael Rodriguez Acosta compose the rest of the Venezuelan delegation which is visiting places of economic and social interest. They will return to their country on Saturday [2 May]

COSTA RICA TO MODIFY ARIAS DRAFT PEACE PLAN

PA300434 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Report by Francisco Urizarri, PRENSA LATINA correspondent in San Jose, Costa Rica]

[Text] Costa Rica has announced that it will prepare a new draft peace plan which will include the modifications presented by El Salvador and Honduras and the modifications that the United States will soon present. The original plan was presented in Janurary in Miami to Ambassador Philip Habib and Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs. From then on the project, clearly intended to demand that Nicaragua change its type of government, but which also affected the regimes of El Salvador and Tegucigalpa, received the international news media's support. However, the Washington hawks believed the plan should exert more pressure on Managua so they began lobbying to make the text more aggressive.

The foreign ministers of El Salvador and Honduras have already presented their modifications and the United States will present its own this week. Habib will visit San Jose on Monday and George Shultz will meet with his Costa Rican counterpart, Rodrigo Madrigal, in Washington. The Costa Rican authorities believe that the reforms presented so far represent a constructive attitude. Latin American diplomats state that the goal is to attain a consensus among Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Costa Rica and then exert pressure on Nicaragua so that it accepts changes which will eventually endanger the people's option in the Sandinist revolution. By the way, this is the goal sought by Ronald Reagan's administration.

COMMENTARY ON UPCOMING U.S. MANEUVERS IN BOLIVIA

PA011326 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 29 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] In the midst of intense negotiations to recover its sea outlet and a miners' strike that is periodically repeated because of the government's uncompromising attitude, Bolivia will now have to put up with, for the second time in less than a year, the presence of U.S. troops in its territory.

On this occasion the U.S. troops are not coming to fight drug trafficking, a pretext they used last year, but to conduct joint military maneuvers with the Bolivian Army. The military maneuvers, called "United Forces 87" [Fuerzas Unidas 87] will be conducted in a jungle region in northern Bolivia because of its characteristics suitable for an unconventional warfare.

In July 1986, the presence of a U.S. military contingent in Bolivia under the pretext of conducting a giant operation against drug trafficking, caused serious problems and demonstrations in the country, besides increasing the concern of several Latin American countries, in view of the White House military interference on the continent.

One must recall the participation of nearly 100,000 peasants in the demonstrations that were carried out against the maneuvers. However, what has caused most concern is the operations by the U.S. military contingent and the Bolivian Army Leopards were practically worthless. One must also recall that despite official reports that the troops would remain in Bolivia for only 60 days, U.S. representatives in Washington and La Paz said that the military contingent would remain in the country as long as necessary. The U.S. objective in that campaign were really very suspicious and certainly did not represent a sincere desire to solve the drug trafficking problem.

The antecedents of the operation were very significant and were tinged with U.S. pressure that took advantage of the severe economic crisis and the lack of financial resources in Bolivia, despite the government's request for economic aid from the United States.

In those difficult times the White House resorted to its commonly used blackmail. It conditioned its economic aid to what it called more effective support in the fight against drug trafficking; that is to say, to allowing the U.S. military contingent to remain in Bolivia. The tactics are clear, to condition economic assistance to allowing the military intervention to continue and to use blackmail to imply that any negative response would mean a stance in favor of drug trafficking.

At present, because of the 6,000 U.S. troops in Ecuador, with the pretext of repairing areas that were damaged by last month's earthquake, Latin American countries are again concerned about the United States wanting to impose its presence in our countries.

The U.S. maneuvers in Bolivia are a threat in this regard, not only for this Andean country, but for the rest of the countries on the continent as well.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH UN REPRESENTATIVES

FL292235 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2032 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca received today separately representatives of the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council accredited in Havana and presented them the Harare Declaration on Palestine. The foreign ministers of the committee of nine of the Nonaligned Movement countries met in Harare to examine the situation in the Middle East and discuss measures in addition to peace efforts in the region aimed at achieving a just solution to the Palestine matter.

The Ministers confirmed in the Harare Declaration the support and solidarity of the Nonaligned Movement countries to the Palestine people led by its only and legitimate representative, the PLO. The foreign ministers agreed to hand the Harare Declaration in their respective countries' capital to the representatives of the five permanent member countries of the UN Security Council.

PARAGUAYAN OPPOSITION TO BOYCOTT 1988 ELECTIONS

PA282116 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Apr 87

["Our America" commentary, read by Manolo Ortega]

[Text] After lengthy discussions, the majority of the Paraguayan opposition forces have decided not to take part in the general elections scheduled for February of next year. Hence, Alfredo Stroessner will be the country's sole presidential candidate.

The Febrerista Revolutionary Party, the only organization recognized by the regime [as heard], gave the coup de grace to the debates in the second week of April when it announced that it would refrain from participating in the elections.

The decision reflects the contradictions that still persist in the traditional Paraguayan opposition, when it seemed that a consensus had been reached regarding the need to unify in order to oust Stroessner from the power he has held for over 30 years.

The fact that a large sector of the opposition decided not to participate in the elections also aborted the so-called Z plan elaborated by Aldo Zuccolillo, director of the silenced daily ABC COLOR, who called for the unification of political parties to face the dictator. Zuccolilo seems to count on U.S. support to improve the image of the Paraguayan Government structures. However, things did not go as planned in the domestic field. For some opposition leaders, taking part in the elections is giving the regime political legitimacy, while others complain about the lack of basic guarantees. Nevertheless, Zuccolillo has said that not participating in the elections would be an act of cowardice, stressing that turning one's back on the elections would contribute to prolonging the lack of democracy indefinitely.

However, the most significant aspect within the Paraguayan political context goes beyond the squabbles of the traditonal opposition, and even beyond Stroessner's reelection plans. A recent survey revealed that 87 percent of Paraguayans want changes in the country and that more than 40 percent feel that there is no coherent opposition with enough credibility to face Stroessner in the February 1988 electoral farce. According to the survey, popular absenteeism seems to be the general rule in Paraguay which, according to analysts, reflects the rejection of continuism and the lack of confidence in those who want to be considered an alternative to the current regime.

In the midst of a selective and prolonged repression and in view of the absence of real legal possibilities of having their aspirations become a reality, Paraguayans have decided to create their own organizations, within the workers and peasants' movement, as effective and representative weapons against an increasingly unbearable dictatorship.

FOREIGN MINISTRY CONDEMNS SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSION

FL281428 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1350 GMT 28 Apr 87

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry [MINREX] has issued a declaration expressing its strongest condemnation of the cowardly aggression committed against the Republic of Zambia by the racist government of Pretoria, which has violated that country's sovereignty and increased tension in southern Africa.

Cuba reiterates its unbreakable solidarity with the government and people of Zambia and the national liberation movements that struggle against apartheid and calls on the international community to condemn the bandit-like aggression. Cuba also demands the application of mandatory global sanctions against that regime, ends the MINREX statement.

FMLN COMMANDER NOTES VICTORY PROSPECTS

PA242016 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Apr 87

[Text] Leonel Gonzalez, member of the FMLN General Command, noted the present stagnation in the U.S. counterinsurgency plan indicates a clear prospect of its defeat. In statements to the rebel stations Radio Venceremos and Radio Farabundo Marti, Gonzalez said the prospects of a victory are better every day.

Gonzalez said the guerrillas have proposed searching for an overall political resolution of the conflict with the participation of the sectors interested in peace as the only possible way to resolve the national crisis.

President Jose Napoleon Duarte had told the entire world that the FMLN forces were being annihilated, but the rebel attack on the El Paraiso garrison showed the reality is quite different, Commander Leonel Gonzalez said.

HOMEMADE BOMB EXPLODES AT PEACE CORPS OFFICE

PA301434 Paris AFP in Spanish 1417 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Apr (AFP) -- A homemade bomb exploded in front of the Peace Corps office here this morning without causing injuries, although there was a lot of commotion in the residential sector. The "Maximiliano Gomez Revolutionary Brigade" in an anonymous telephone call to the evening newspaper ULTIMA HORA claimes credit for the attack as well as for two others on 28 and 29 April in the cities of Santiago and La Vega, respectively, at installations of the U.S. Mormon missionaries. The anonymous caller explained the attacks are to commemorate the U.S. troop invasion of the Dominican Republic 22 years ago.

Police agents and security members of the U.S. Peace Corps immediately surrounded the building and searched carefully for other bombs. The incident is under investigation.

ARREST WARRANT ISSUED FOR FORMER PRESIDENT

PA300106 Paris AFP in Spanish 0039 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Santo Domingo, 29 Apr (AFP) -- Tonight Judge Francia Concepcion issued a preventive custody warrant for former Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco, who is accused of being involved in illegal military purchases during his administration, the judge reported to the news media.

Nevertheless, the former president challenged the judge's authority to issue an arrest warrant and the order was not carried out because Jorge Blanco accompanied by his escort left for the presidency.

Blanco Will Surrender

FL301149 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] The Dominican Republic's former president, Salvador Jorge Blanco, has told a radio station he will surrender today to comply with an order to go to jail. Jorge Blanco was questioned for 10 hours by a judge yesterday. He is accused of covering up illegal military purchases. He left the court as the judge tried to jail him.

Blanco Requests Asylum

PA301911 Paris AFP in Spanish 1853 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Santo Domingo, 30 Apr (AFP) -- Former Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco has requested asylum from the Venezuelan Embassy here, Abel Clavijo Ostos, Venezuelan ambassador to the Dominican Republic reported this afternoon in statements to reporter. The former president refused to comply with an order issued by an arraigning judge calling for his house arrest on charges of irregularities in military purchases during his administration (1983-86). Jorge Blanco has been at the home of the Venezuelan ambassador since this morning, Clavijo Ostos confirmed.

BAHAMAS

PINDLING BLAMES DRUG PROBLEMS ON AMERICANS

FL291915 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Report by Elaine Ferguson]

[Text] Prime Minister Lynden O. Pindling also told the thousands of Bahamians at the Convention Center, and others who either watched on television or listened by radio, that ever since the Bahamas took a position that disrupted the Caribbean Basin Initiative, did not suit the development requirements of many Caribbean nations, and suggested that the invasion of Grenada was a breach of that nation's sovereignty, the Bahamas has been on the receiving end of a relentless stream of slander. He told Bahamians that we are a victim, not a principal in the international drug trade. He said that we are not the cause of the cocaine problem, we are, he said, the victims of it. He said we have a drug problem here, not because Bahamians have gone looking for drugs but because non-Bahamians brought drug trafficking to the Bahamas. The Colombians have been growing coca plants for centuries, he said, but the Bahamas never had a cocaine problem until Americans started dragging hundreds of tons of cocaine through these tranquil islands on their way to the United States.

Sir Lynden said we must permanently mount a sustained and sensible attack against drug traffickers. We must be as vigorous as we can within the limits of our capabilities in our pursuit for an honest, drug free society. The PLP [Progressive Liberal Party] convention continues tonight. Attorney General Honorable Paul Adderley and businessmen, Mr Franklin Roosevelt and Reverend Dr William Helms are the scheduled speakers.

ST CHRISTOPHER AND NEVIS

AMBASSADOR ACCUSED OF MONEY LAUNDERING

FL301454 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] St Kitts Ambassador William Herbert has been identified by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation as an international money launderer.

In an affidavit filed in Boston, Massachusetts, by the FBI, Mr Herbert was accused of helping drug traffickers hide their illegal profits in banks and Shell corporations he allegedly controls in Anguilla.

Ambassador Herbert has also been investigated by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service and by Britain's Scotland Yard. He calls the accusations outlandish.

Ambassador to U.S. Resigns

FL301631 Bridgetown CANA in English 1559 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, April 30, CANA -- Dr William Herbert has resigned as St Kitts-Nevis ambassador to the United States following a British newspaper report linking him to an international money laundering scheme, the government radio announced last night.

It said Herbert, who will retain his accreditation as ambassador to the United Nations and the Organisation of American States (OAS), blamed personnel in U.S. Government departments for feeding the press with the groundless information.

Both Herbert's resignation letter and the reply from Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds were read on the radio.

Last night's announcement followed an April 25 report in THE DAILY TELEGRAPH newspaper about an international money laundering scheme in which funds funnelled through an Anguilla bank went to finance the outlawed Irish Republican Army (IRA).

Herbert, in his letter of resignation, said he had been grossly libelled by the press article and said the sources of these groundless allegations stem from personnel in the departments of the U.S. Government, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA).

Herbert promised he will take legal steps in the United Kingdom and the United States and elsewhere to vindicate himself.

Herbert said he has always assisted in the promotion of U.S.-Caribbean relations and is an outspoken advocate of legislation against illicit drugs.

Despite this, the diplomat said, he had been treated by the departments and agencies of a friendly government in an indecent and shameful manner, based upon the information of informers in their desire to destroy legal tax havens in the Caribbean.

Prime Minister Simmonds said he accepted Herbert's resignation with deep regret, but wished to place on record his own appreciation and that of the country for the outstanding and dedicated service which you have rendered.

Simmonds went on: I note that your resignation is purely to enable you to vindicate your good name in respect to certain allegations, and assured the diplomat of government's full support in his endeavours.

Since Dr Herbert's resignation as ambassador to the United States, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has announced that the St Kitts and Nevis Embassy in New York will be headed by Minister Counsellor Erstein Edwards as charge d'affaires.

Letter of Resignation

FL302044 Bridgetown CANA in English 1637 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] Basseterre, St Kitts, April 30, CANA -- Following are the texts of letters exchanged between Prime Minister Dr Kennedy Simmonds and Dr William Herbert who has resigned as ambassador to the United States saying he wanted to clear his name of newspaper allegations linking him to an international money laundering scheme.

(Both letters were read over state-owned Radio Ziz; last night)

Letter of resignation from Herbert to Simmonds:

"Dear Sir,

I wish to confirm our recent conversation relating to my position as ambassador to the U.S.A. I have been grossly libelled by a London newspaper, THE DAILY TELEGRAPH, and the sources of these groundless allegations stem from personnel in departments of the U.S.A. Government i.e. I.R.S. and D.E.A.

It seems to me necessary to take proceedings against said agencies and I do not believe it will be in my best interest nor in the interest of my country to continue to hold the post of ambassador to the U.S.

I have always been proudly committed to the service of this country. I have always assisted in the promotion of U.S.A.-Caribbean relationships and am an outspoken advocate of legislation against illicit drugs. Despite this I have been treated by the U.S. departments and agencies of a friendly government, in such an indecent and shameful manner based upon unnamed informers in their desire to destroy legal tax havens in the Caribbean.

I wish your government every success in your future representation and assure you that I will take all necessary legal steps in the United Kingdom, and in the United States of America and elsewhere to vindicate myself.

Yours faithfully,

William V. Herbert.

Prime Minister Simmonds response:

"Dear Dr Herbert,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 29th April, 1987.

I accept with deep regret your resignation as ambassador to the United States of America. I wish to place on record my own appreciation and that of our country for the outstanding and dedicated service in which you have rendered. I note that your resignation is purely to enable you to vindicate your good name in respect of certain allegations and I can assure you that the government will fully support you in your endeavours.

You have served St Kitts and Nevis with much distinction both before and since our independence and it is particularly distressing that allegations of this nature would seek to tarnish your solid reputation in quest of our continued development.

I am heartened by your acceptance of my request to you to continue to serve our country as ambassador to Japan, as permanent representative to the United Nations and to the Organization of American States (OAS).

May I again thank you for your dedicated service to the people of St Kitts and Nevis. With every good wish.

Yours faithfully,
Kennedy A. Simmonds
Prime Minister.

ST LUCIA

OPPOSITION ACCUSES OTHER COUNTR ES OF INTERFERENCE

FL301359 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 30 Apr 87

[Text] It's election day again in St Lucia and the leader of the main opposition party has criticized the conservative government of three Caribbean nations of interference in the election.

Julian Hunte, head of the St Lucia Labour Party, said the ruling parties in Dominica, Jamaica, and St Vincent are openly assisting ruling United Workers Party of Prime Minister John Compton.

Mr Compton has flatly denied any assistance from other governments.

Meanwhile, today, St Lucians will be electing a new House of Assembly. Three weeks ago, the United Workers Party came away with margin of victory too small to effectively govern the island so Prime Minister Compton called s so-called snap election in hopes of gaining a larger majority.

More on Elections

FL010034 Bridgetown CANA in English 0011 GMT 1 May 87

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, April 30, CANA -- The St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) of businessman Julian Hunte was leading in four constitutencies and Prime Minister John Compton's United Workers Party (UWP) in two, as vote counting started here following today's general elections -- the second this month. Both the SLP and the UWP were holding on to traditional strongholds.

Compton was ahead by 127 votes in his Micoud South Riding and Hunte was leading his rival in Gros Islet by 118 votes. Political analysts here said no unusual trends had emerged so far. Compton called the snap elections April 13, a week after his UWP came up with a slender one-seat majority in a similar poll. In the April 6 election, the UWP won nine of the 17 seats and the SLP 8.

Electoral officials today surmised an even lower voter turnout than in the previous election, when about 60 percent of the 83,052 electorate voted. Chief elections officer McClair Danie said he was "baffled" by the voter response. Hunte said today he detected a feeling of apathy among voters, many of whom were heard today saying they had already cast their ballots on April 6. The two major parties fielded a full slate of candidates for today's election, while the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) ran only four.

ACTING PRESIDENT NOTES WORKERS DEMANDS

FL291855 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Acting President Fred Ramdat-Misier has described the demands of the Surinamese workers movement in the struggle for life as justified and realistic. He said this in a message to the four trade union federations on the upcoming May Day celebrations.

On that day, three of the four federations will launch (Arafacsur), the Council of Trade Union movement in Suriname, which is a cooperation of three of the four federations. (Arafacsur) is comprised of the Moederbond, C-47, and the Civil Service Organization and is aimed at promoting unity among workers.

In his message, Acting President Ramdat-Misier said that last year had been difficult for the trade union movement because of the contraction and closure of some companies. Apart from that, the present economic circumstances are a threat to the peace on the industrial scene.

BOUTERSE 'LIKELY' TO WITHDRAW FROM POLITICS

FL291256 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Observers from the Netherlands say current Surinamese leader Colonel Desi Bouterse will likely withdraw from active politics following the upcoming elections. His chances are very slight of his being elected president.

Mr Desi Bouterse will not participate in the new Surinamese Democratic Party and does not believe he will play an active role in the elections. He has announced that he will not be a candidate but will act only in an advisory position.

JUNGLE COMMANDO THREATENS PALM OIL WORKERS

FL291804 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] The 400 workers at the Victoria Oil Palm company last week came to Paramaribo because of fear for their safety. The so-called Jungle Commando threatened to put their houses on fire and warned that their lives would be in danger if they decided to remain on the complex.

This week the workers union had a meeting with the director of the company on the precarious situation presently at Victoria. This company is the main producer of cooking oil for the local market and should not be lost, said the workers. The workers are concerned about the oil palm and the cultivation.

Although the National Army carried out mopping-up operations in the surroundings, the area is not yet safe and presently no solution is in sight yet to this question.

The meeting has recognized this as a national problem because, not only Victoria, but also other parts in Suriname are unsafe.

AUTHORITIES RECOVER HIJACKED PLANE IN CAYENNE

FL271809 Paramaribo International -vice in English 1730 GMT 27 Apr 87

[Text] On Thursday last, the French authorities in Cayenne seized a Suriname Airways Twin Otter which was hijacked in October last year by the Brunswijk Gang. The airplane, which is worth 1 million U.S. dollars and which made a technical stop over at Rochambeau International Airport in Cayenne, was flown by an American and an Australian national. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs here said that the airplane is at the disposal of the Surinamese authorities and that Foreign Affairs and Suriname Airways will try to settle the affair this week.

Ransom Paid to Rebels

FL291838 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 29 Apr 87

[Text] Lloyds Insurance Company has paid the Brunswijk Gang 800,000 Dutch guilders for the Suriname Airways [SLM] Twin Otter, which the gang hijacked in October last year.

While Suriname Airways and Lloyds were negotiating an insurance claim of $1 million, the insurance company also negotiated with the Brunswijk Gang for the payment of a ransom.

Suriname Airways informed the Surinamese authorities about this and requested an authorization to settle the claim itself. This request was, however, not honored by the foreign exchange authorities here. They said that according to the stipulations, foreign exchange must be paid to the authorizing agent in Suriname through the Central Bank. The authorized agent in this case is the Suriname insurance company, Self-Reliance, with which the SLM aircraft was insured.

Central Bank President Henk Goedschalk, who gave our news room this information, also said that Lloyds has created a serious precedent by acting as it did. The fact is that international conventions stipulate how to deal with hijackers and by paying them ransom money, Lloyds trampled on these conventions. Central Bank President Goedschalk said he is of the opinion that the government of Suriname and Suriname Airways must seriously protest Lloyds actions.

The SLM aircraft was seized by French authorities in Cayenne after landing at the international airport, Rochambeau, where it (?was repaired) by Lloyds Insurance Company.